CANADA'S

style at home

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SEE PAGE 76

Cozy Glamour!

11 UNIQUE WAYS TO CREATE A **FESTIVE TABLE**

30 STYLISH ROOMS decorated for HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING

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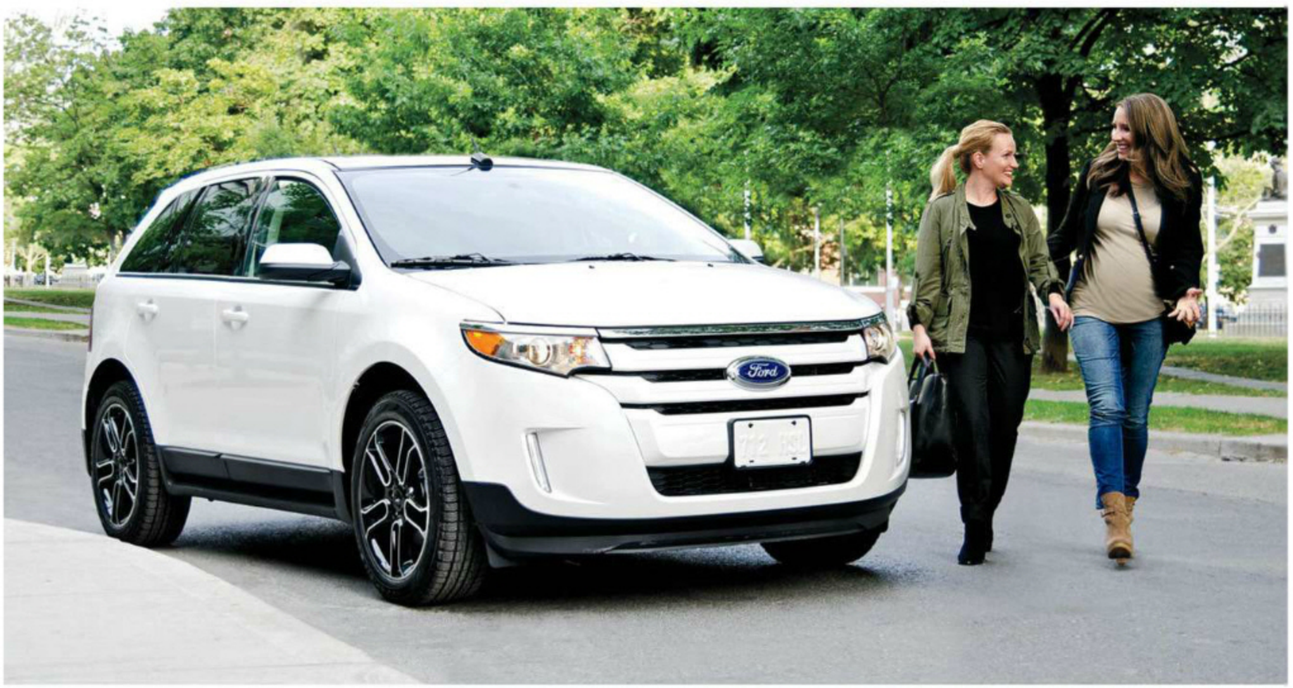
TORONTO: A DECOR ADVENTURE WITH AN EDGE



SISTER ACT Contest winners Robin and Melissa spend a weekend enjoying their exclusive prize touring around Toronto in a **2013 Ford Edge.**

CITY OF STYLE

Arguably one of the most stylish cities in the world, Toronto was the perfect spot to host a weekend adventure for decor-loving enthusiasts. *Style at Home* editor-in-chief Erin McLaughlin created a special itinerary to showcase some of her favourite decor spots. Against an urban backdrop, winners Robin and Melissa drove the new Ford Edge to visit every spot on Erin's list.

MEET THE WINNERS

Winning an exclusive weekend to drive the new 2013 Ford Edge and learn about decor was the sisters' dream come true, and a great way to spend some quality sibling time!

...THE DAY BEGINS!

***Style at Home*'s Erin McLaughlin meets the winners at their hotel, the Thompson Toronto, to tour in the 2013 Ford Edge.**

First stop on Erin's list is Farrow & Ball, one of Toronto's best paint and wallpaper stores. Erin shows Robin and Melissa some easy tricks to create colour palettes that reflect their own personal style.

There isn't a decor lover around that doesn't adore fabric, and Robin and Melissa both fit the bill. After a smooth and enjoyable ride in the Ford Edge, the sisters head into Designer Fabrics, one of Erin's secret discount stores. The sisters learn how to choose fabrics for everything from upholstery to curtains. Using their colour palettes from Farrow & Ball, Erin helps them come up with a look that they'll each love forever.

THREE'S COMPANY

Nothing's sweeter after a day of shopping than gossiping over lunch – especially when the group happens to be Erin, Robin and Melissa. It comes as no surprise that everyone orders the same salad and the same homemade lemonade. Mildred's Temple Kitchen, one of Toronto's chicest dining spots, was the perfect venue to talk about a fabulous day of decor.

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Available Ford SYNC®* Robin and Melissa were able to keep their hands on the wheel with the voice-activated SYNC® system feature that called their restaurant for them to confirm their lunch reservations. Plus, the ladies used voice commands to safely adjust the temperature and fan speed in the vehicle while on the road!

Interior The luxurious design of the Ford Edge interior boasts comfortable seats with premium fabrics and leathers. Top-stitching on the available leather seats adds an extra note of chic while the flow-through centre console makes the space feel seamless.

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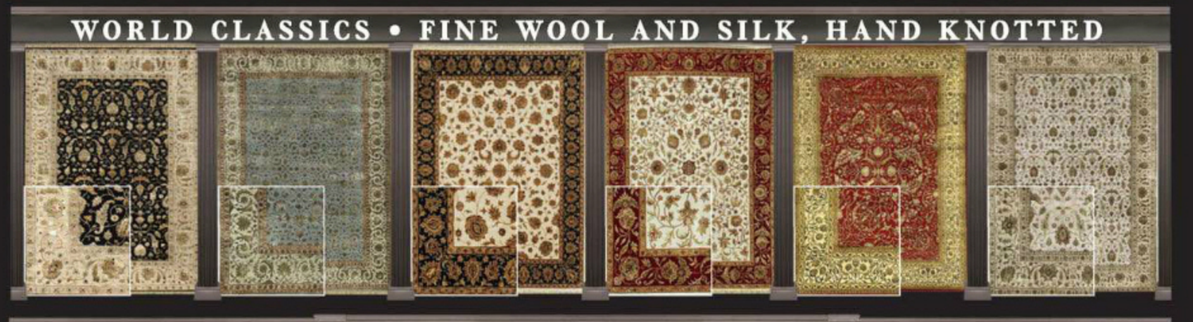

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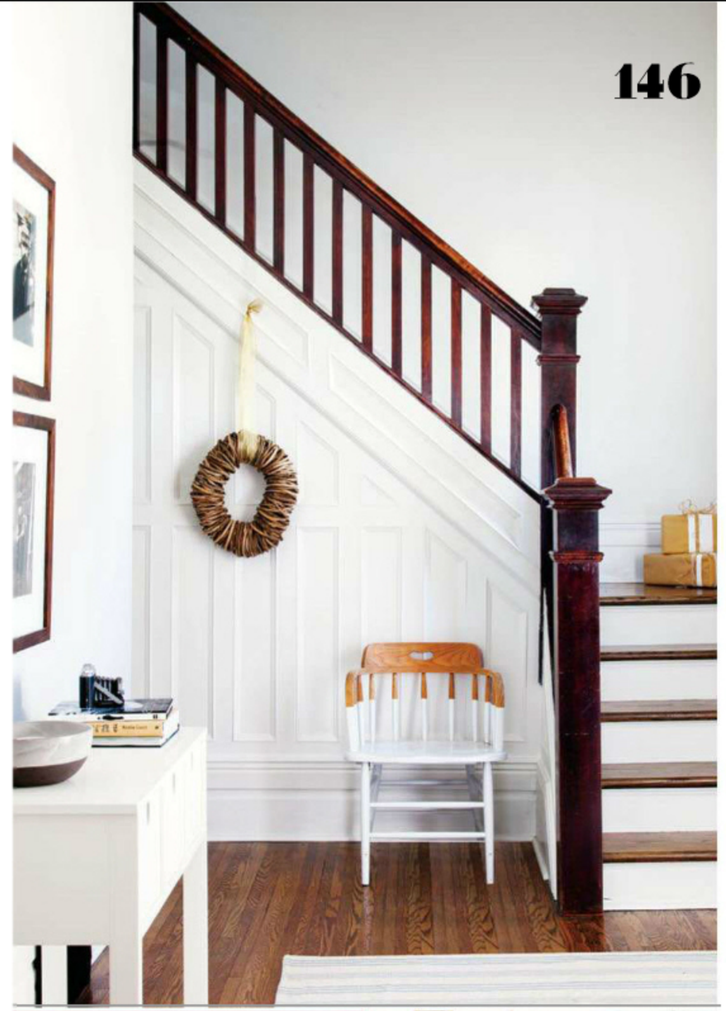

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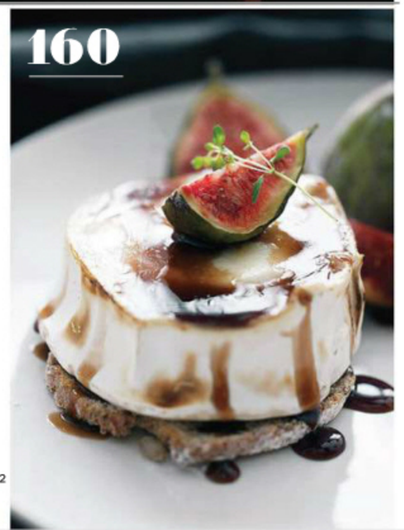
PHOTOGRAPHY
Donna Griffith



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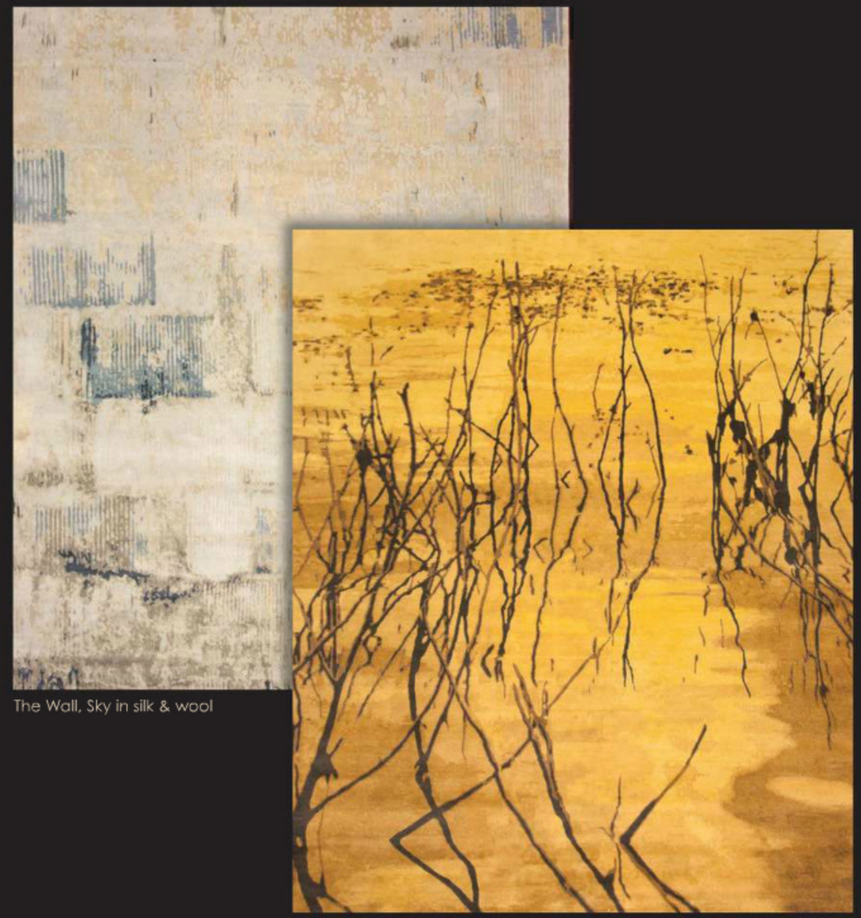

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One of my earliest memories of holiday dinners is eating my grandmother's lima bean casserole. The recipe uses quintessentially retro ingredients, such as cream of mushroom soup and canned lima beans, with a heavy coating of breadcrumbs on top. (Since you're probably dying to try it, here's what you do: mix the soup and the beans in a small dish, cover with the breadcrumbs and bake for 20 to 30 minutes at 350°F – voila, oven to table in half an hour!)

Now, lima beans aren't the most kid-friendly food (and at that time I was fussy), so needless to say I avoided the dish like the plague. But over the years, as I've matured, so, too, has my taste for that casserole. It's become an icon of my family's Christmas dinner, and the holidays just aren't complete without it. My grandmother is in her early 80s now, and although she doesn't host holiday dinners anymore, she still prepares the recipe every year and lovingly brings it along to the family celebrations.

While classic family dishes are a mainstay for holiday entertaining, the best parties always add in something new as well. Maybe it's decorating with a new accent colour, adding a metallic hit to your table setting or updating your menu (casserole, anyone?). This holiday entertaining issue is all about the art of mixing the old with the new and unexpected for a unique celebration that's true to your style. The feature homes on these pages take a fun and fresh spin on holiday parties with results that are so special, we hope we're invited back every year.

Erin

Erin McLaughlin erin@styleathome.com

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GREAT GIFT IDEA FROM $40!

A ceramic bowl from the Style at Home Limited Edition Collection is my go-to hostess gift this holiday season.
See the entire collection at styleathome.com/shop, and check out more great hostess gifts on page 76.

STYLISH HOUSE? OR NOT.

Have you seen the new HGTV television series *Four Houses Canada* yet? If you have, you'll know it's a property show like no other. And if you haven't, you must tune in. In each episode, four strangers tour and rate each other's homes. Each house is critiqued in secret for style, design and overall impression. The homeowner with the highest score wins bragging rights as "Best House," a cash prize and, best of all, a photo feature in *Style at Home* magazine. *Four Houses Canada* airs Thursdays at 9 p.m. ET/PT on HGTV. Visit hgtv.ca for full episodes and new photos each week.

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Night Table and 6 Drawer Hi-boy

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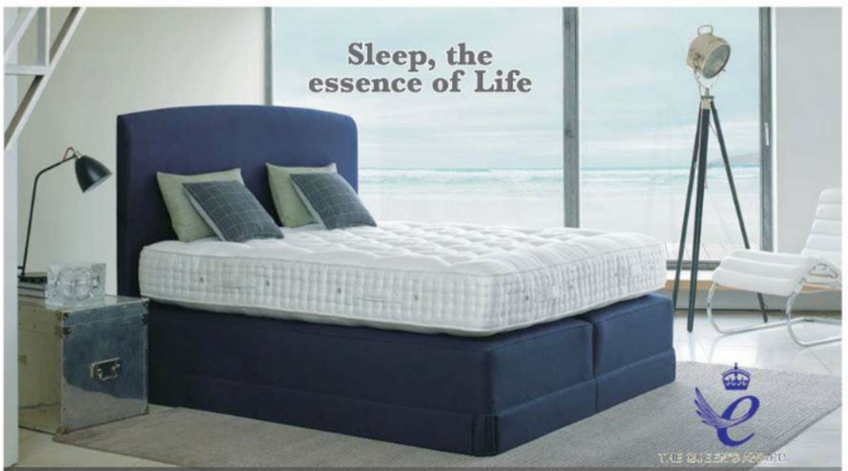
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CRAZY **FOR CRAFTS**

I just retired after teaching kindergarten and now have time to craft with my grandson. We had fun decorating the fall tree (see "Style News," page 35, October 2012) using the acorns and pine cones we collected while camping. Everyone thinks it's beautiful and so do we. Thank you for the ideas – keep them coming!

CAROL SWANSON, OSHAWA, ON

EDITORS' NOTE: *We're impressed by your crafting skills – keep up the fantastic work!*

VARIETY **SHOW**

I love getting my *Style at Home* magazine and reading it cover to cover. One thing I noticed about the November 2012 issue was that it was all about decorating for Christmas. A Canadian magazine should represent the many different cultures we have across our country. Christmas is not the only winter holiday and, as such, many people do not decorate for it.

DIANA LOFSKY, VIA EMAIL

EDITORS' NOTE: *You're absolutely right! Check out "Light the Way" on page 154 for some inspiring ideas on Hanukkah decorating.*

DIAMONDS ARE **FOREVER**

I loved your favourite before and after picks from the last 15 years featured on page 63 of the October 2012 issue. At first I didn't think the older interiors would speak to me but you've proven that some styles are eternal. Your choice for the laundry room makeover was certainly my favourite. In fact, I still have that page saved from the June 2009 issue because it appealed to me so much back then!

WANDA GRANT, VIA EMAIL

Repeat after me:
La-Z-Boy makes more than recliners.
Good.
Swatch_0202
FRONT - D.E.
Pinterest
Visit us at Pinterest.com/lazboy to start pinning your favorite pieces or this entire room.

It's a message that bears repeating. La-Z-Boy offers a whole range of comfortable, great-looking furniture, including sofas, sectionals, loveseats and more. Trust me, it's worth taking another look. One more time: La-Z-Boy makes more than recliners. la-z-boy.com

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MORE **GREEN**

I've never had a subscription to anything but *Style at Home*, so I think it's only fair to give you props after a long four-year relationship. The story "Natural Instinct" on page 56 of the October 2012 issue really spoke to me. Samantha Sacks kept most of the homeowner's elements and subtly altered them to give them new life. It was truly green and budget-friendly. I would love to see more of these eco-friendly options whenever possible. High fives to you all!

AMANDA PUTZ, OTTAWA, ON

EDITORS' NOTE: *Check out more from Samantha Sacks in upcoming issues, Amanda!*

OOPS! The website for the vases available at Joan Eiley on page 126 of our November 2012 issue should have read joaneiley.ca.

S@H READERS TWEET

I'm in love with *Style at Home*'s November issue – so many great holiday ideas!
@amber_dowling

Reading the *Style at Home* holiday style edition. So festive! #xmas
@Sagittarius2512

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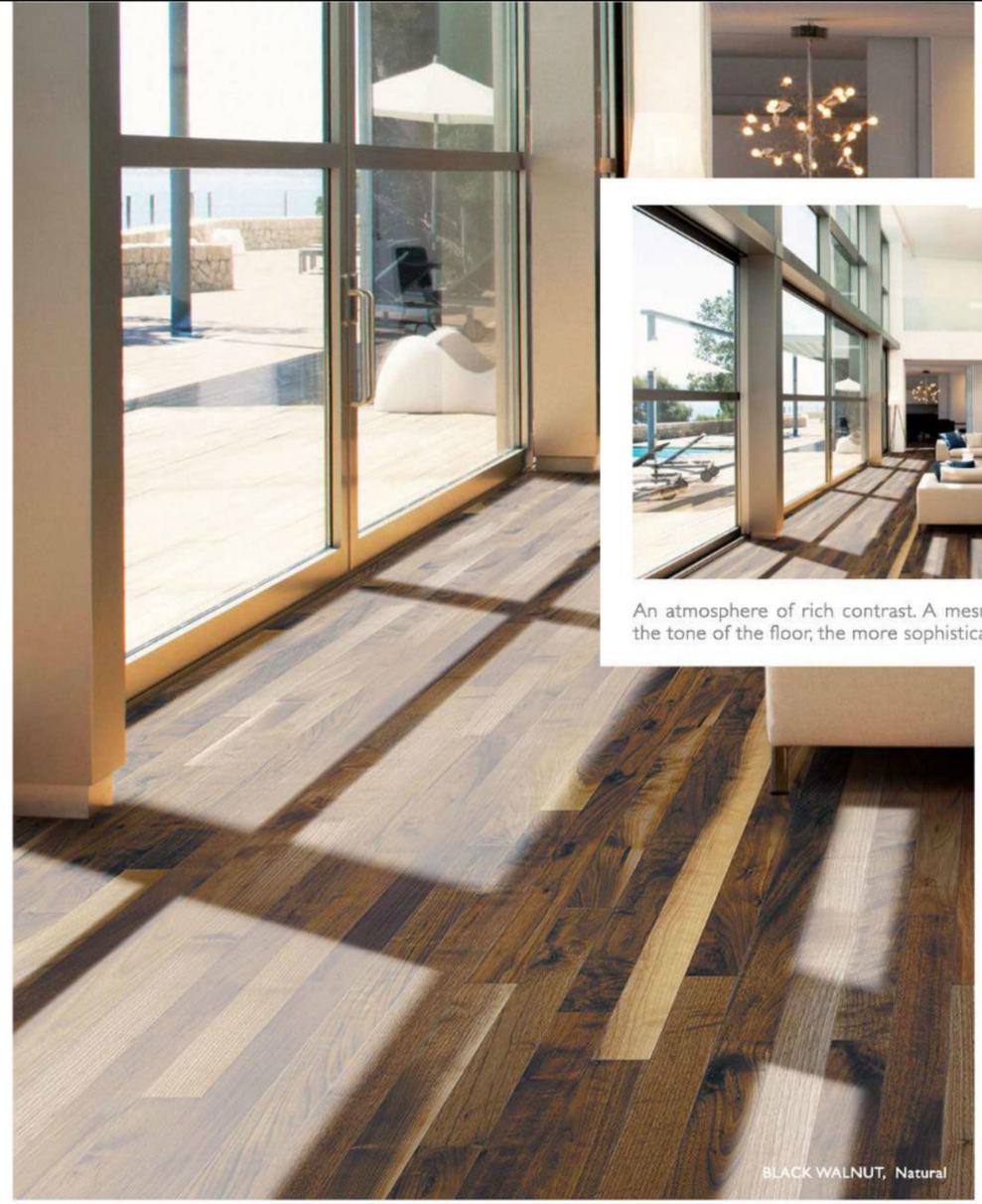
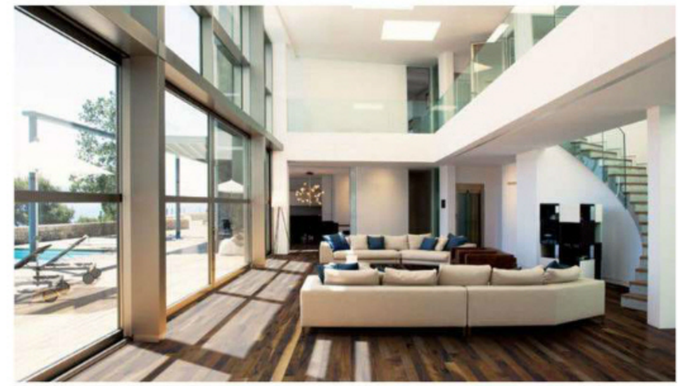
we love to hear from you!

Email us at letters@styleathome.com or write to us at *Style at Home*, Letters from Home, 25 Sheppard Ave. W., Suite 100, Toronto, Ont. M2N 6S7.





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new year, NEW LOOK

COMING DEC. 10

TOP TRENDS IN FLOORING, PAINT AND FABRIC; plus, glamorous spaces, each with their own unique style.

AND MUCH MORE! An interview with celebrity designer and TV host Nate Berkus; a delicious hot-and-cold menu; two stylish dining rooms to inspire.

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PHOTOGRAPHY, DONNA GRIFFITH

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Don't miss *Style at Home* editors and designers on television and at these events.

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HGTV

« Check out *Four Houses Canada*, where four strangers tour and rate each other's homes every episode. Each home is critiqued for style and design, livability and originality. The highest-scoring homeowner wins a cash prize and a photo feature in *Style at Home*! *Four Houses Canada* airs Thursdays at 9 p.m. ET/PT on HGTV. For more details, visit hgtv.ca.

« Watch editor-in-chief **Erin McLaughlin** on CBC's *Steven and Chris*. For air dates and times, check your local listings or go to cbc.ca/stevenandchris.

Editor-in-chief **Erin McLaughlin** on set with Steven Sabados and Chris Hyndman.

WISH YOU **WERE HERE!**

Associate editor **Sara Cation** (left) and design editor **Jessica Waks** met Lord Wedgwood during his visit to William Ashley China in Toronto to promote the new Wedgwood & Bentley Collection.

Read our interview with the legendary Lord Wedgwood at **STYLEATHOME.COM/WEDGWOOD.**

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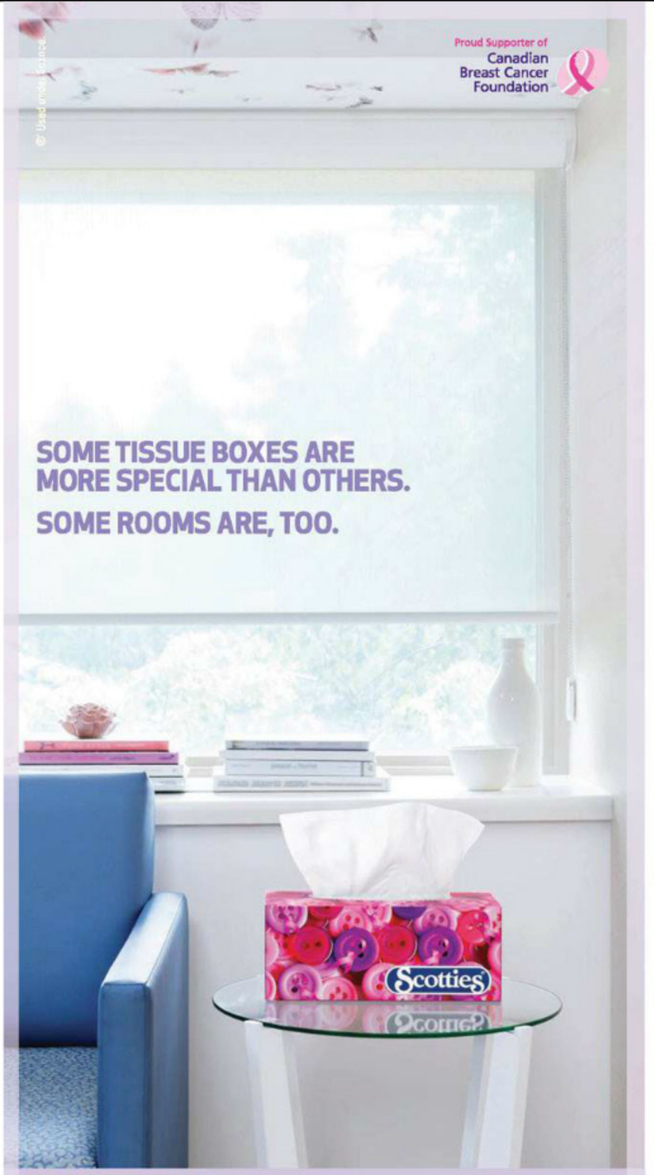

We designed the new Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre oncology patient lounge with a focus on organic design elements to bring the outdoors in. These details make the space more soothing for patients undergoing treatment, and are part of our commitment to a future without breast cancer.

See details of the makeover at facebook.com/ScottiesTIssue

Sunnybrook
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE

Scotties
The perfect touch.

SENIOR WEB EDITOR **NATALIE DISCALA** (LEFT) AND WEB EDITOR **ELAINE SONG** TELL US WHAT'S NEW ONLINE THIS MONTH.

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7 FESTIVE HOLIDAY INTERIORS

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WIN THIS!

This month, you could win a **De'Longhi 15-Bar Pump Driven Espresso Maker.** This espresso machine is built with the best quality Italian craftsmanship, combining style and performance with its patented sempre crema filter and cappuccino frother. These elements enhance the brewing process and produce the perfect caramel-coloured crema.

TO ENTER, VISIT STYLEATHOME.COM/NEWSLETTER.

Sign up for any of the *Style at Home* e-newsletters and you'll automatically be entered into our monthly e-newsletter subscriber contest for your chance to win great prizes!

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (PORTRAITS); ANGUS FERGUSSON (INTERIOR); ISTOCKPHOTO

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CHECKED OFF HER LIST,

RESCUED A SINKING GINGERBREAD HOUSE, AND TONIGHT SHE'LL BE HOLIDAY HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTESS.

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PRODUCER JESSICA WAKS

stylenews

Decor, trends, style ideas and more – we bring you the latest and greatest inspirations.

Do the dishes

For this issue's project of the month, managing editor and resident crafter Catherine Therrien turns plain everyday dishware into customized pieces of art that are almost too good to eat off. Cook up these masterpieces with a simple design and a food-safe marker suitable for china and you'll be the one getting all the compliments!

PLATE, BOWL, TABLECLOTH, NAPKIN,
HomeSense, homesense.ca.

FOR HOW-TO INSTRUCTIONS, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA. STYLING, CATHERINE THERRIEN

Get more fun and festive craft ideas at **STYLEATHOME.COM/CRAFTS.**

Starlit Holiday **TREES** from $99 US, Restoration Hardware, restoration-hardware.com.
STARLIGHT, STAR BRIGHT
Less is more with these ethereal Starlit trees from Restoration Hardware. Add ornaments to the flexible branches or let the warm white LED lights take centre stage for an understated glow.

NOTEWORTHY

JOT DOWN WHO'S BEEN NAUGHTY OR NICE IN THESE SMALL YET STYLISH NOTEBOOKS. SMYTHSON'S ARE GENUINE LAMBSKIN, WHILE INDIGO'S LOOK-ALIKES ARE FAUX LEATHER.

Pocket Notebooks Bright Ideas, Superstar & Genius Wafer **NOTEBOOKS,** $60 US each, Smythson, smythson.com.

Small Gold Gilded **JOURNALS** in Black, Red and Blue, $8 each, Chapters, Indigo, indigo.ca.

ROMANCING THE STONE

ADD RUSTIC WARMTH TO YOUR HEARTH OR AN ACCENT WALL WITH TRUE STACK, AN EASY-TO-INSTALL ENGINEERED STONE PRODUCT FROM PLY GEM. THE MODULAR SYSTEM COMES IN SEVEN DIFFERENT COLOURS AND HAS A SMALL MORTAR GAP FOR A CLEAN, SEAMLESS LOOK.

True Stack **MODULAR STONE,** from $6.50 per sq. ft., Ply Gem Stone, plygemstone.com.

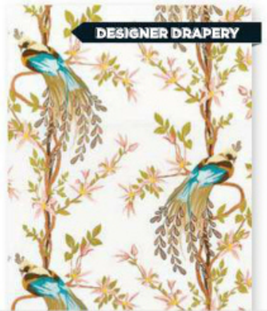
Each month, *Style at Home* blogger and decor enthusiast Christine Dovey of Bijou and Boheme (bijouandboheme.blogspot.ca) reveals what's trending on the web.

ORIGINAL BLOGGER ART

There's not much I love more than fabulous original art, and I'm ecstatic that some of my blogging besties now have their work up for grabs at insanely good prices. Here are three artists to lust over, but check out more in our Workbook on page 178. Clockwise from left: Chassity Evans of Look Linger Love (hangthiswearthat.etsy.com), Jessica Rae Sommer of Lovely Ugly Design (jessicarae-sommer.etsy.com) and Jenny Andrews-Anderson of My Favorite and My Best (mfamb.tumblr.com).

Along with great art, I'm also a super-fan of gorgeous fabric and have discovered an Etsy shop that makes window coverings out of some of the most highly sought-after designer textiles around – welcome to the delightful world that is the Drapery Gal (thedraperygal.etsy.com). Now the loveliness in this place doesn't exactly come cheap, but trust me when I tell you it's well worth the splurge. And if there's a fabric that you fancy but don't see on the site, they'll try to find it for you.

My last little tidbit of news is an awesome website called Project Décor (projectdecor.com), a one-stop spot that allows you to design your own room, share it with friends and then shop your decor finds. It basically lets your cyber design dreams become a reality – from the comfort of your own home.



PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (NOTEBOOKS)

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SETTING THE STAGE

When it comes to holiday entertaining, add drama and polish to your table settings with texture, shape and pattern. Handmade vinyl placemats by NgLp Designs, embellished with grommets and other design details, are wipeable for easy cleanup. Pier 1 Imports's interestingly carved wooden chargers are a shapely addition that bring antiqued elegance to a winter meal at an affordable price, and Mikasa's beautiful Calista porcelain dinnerware blends a Greek key motif with a chain design for a rich, layered effect.

Mikasa porcelain Calista **DINNERWARE,** $130 per 5-piece place setting, The Bay, thebay.com.

GET A HIGH-END ARTISANAL LOOK FOR LESS.

DwellStudio Crosshatch **DECANTERS** in Gold, from $179, Global Views, globalviews.com.

DOWN THE HATCH

GILDED GLAMOUR IS ADDED TO THESE GEOMETRIC-SHAPED DECANTERS WITH A VINTAGE-INSPIRED MOTIF THAT BRINGS EXTRA SPARKLE TO YOUR BAR.

INJECT SOME OLD-WORLD GLITZ.

in the mix

Celebrated British appliance maker Kenwood has crossed the pond and introduced the Cooking Chef, which blends, chops and steams – and cooks with an induction element, too!

Cooking Chef **APPLIANCE,** $1,999, Kenwood, kenwoodworld.com.

ON TAP

DETOX FROM AN EGGNOG AND MULLED-WINE OVERLOAD WITH PLENTY OF FRESH H20 THANKS TO BRIZO'S BEVERAGE FAUCETS, IDEAL FOR FILTERED WATER. THEY'RE AVAILABLE IN A VARIETY OF FINISHES AND TWO DIFFERENT STYLES TO SUIT BOTH MODERN AND TRADITIONAL KITCHENS – OR EVEN BUTLER'S PANTRIES.

Euro **BEVERAGE FAUCET** in Chrome, $213, Brizo, brizo.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY: RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (PLACEMATS)

NOVEMBER 23rd

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Elsa Peretti for Tiffany & Co. Thumbprint **BOWL** in Red Venetian Glass, $310, Tiffany & Co., tiffany.com.

CONFIGUR-ABLE COFFEE

Nespresso U **ESPRESSO MACHINE** in Pure Cream, $199, Nespresso, nespresso.com.

Arrange the elements of the Nespresso U to suit your countertop storage situation. With an adaptable water tank that rotates around the machine and a removable magnetic cup support, this modular model can be tailored to your exact needs for an even more convenient coffee experience.

Marcel Wanders for Alessi Dressed **POTS & PANS**, from $139.

Bergo Designs, bergo.ca

ONE-POT WANDERS

ALESSI'S FIRST FORAY INTO NON-STICK COOKWARE IS PERFECTLY DECKED OUT FOR THE HOLIDAYS WITH FANCIFUL 3D DESIGNS BY MARCEL WANDERS ADORNING THE STAINLESS STEEL HANDLES AND LIDS.

bubbly 3 ways

Tired of your plain glass flutes? Ring in the new year with these alternative options that'll put the sparkle back into your sip.

Monique Lhuillier Waterford Collection Blush **CHAMPAGNE COUPES,** $165 per pair, William Ashley China, williamashley.com

Sparkling **CHAMPAGNE FLUTES** in Gold, $37 per set of 4, Chapters, Indigo, indigo.ca.

Sagitta **CHAMPAGNE FLUTES,** $30 each, Trudeau, trudeau.ca.

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last-minute GIFTS

Forgot to check your list twice? We've got a few great options to give.

CHECKLIST
MARK IT OFF!

Ikat **DINNER NAPKIN** in Turquoise/Cream and Orange/Cream, $78 US each per set of 4, Sheridan French, sheridan-french.com.

Make My Day Tea Cube Infuser **TEAPOT,** $40, Sears, sears.ca.

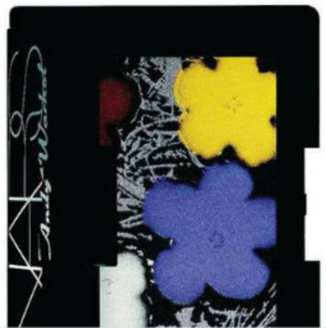
Travel **BACKGAMMON SET,** $195, Tory Burch, toryburch.com.

iPhone **GRAMOPHONE,** $249 US, Restoration Hardware, restoration-hardware.com.

Tangle Museum Size **TOY** in Chrome, $70, The Bay, thebay.com.

The Big Book of Chic **BOOK** by Miles Redd, $75 US, Assouline, assouline.com.

Leather **USB KEYS,** $310 each, Hermès, hermes.com.



Nars Andy Warhol Holiday Collection Warhol Flowers **EYESHADOW PALETTE,** $65, Sephora, sephora.ca.

Steven and Chris ceramic **BOWLS,** $70 (large), $15 (small), Canfloyd, canfloyd.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (TEAPOT, TOY, BOWLS)

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No purchase necessary. Contest ends December 31, 2012. There are 10 – CDN $10,000 prizes available to be won. Odds of winning are dependent on the number of entries received. Skill-testing question required. Full Rules are available at tdrewards.com. ® / The TD logo and other trade-marks are the property of The Toronto-Dominion Bank or a wholly-owned subsidiary, in Canada and/or other countries.

THE trend IS

oxblood

Whatever you call it – oxblood, burgundy, Bordeaux or maybe just maroon – this dark and sultry shade is warming up winter. **PRODUCER** AMANDA ETTY

OUR INSPIRATION

Our hearts are aflutter for these classic pumps in an elegant burgundy patent leather.

1 Etta Patent **PUMPS** in Crimson Maple, $278, J.Crew, jcrew.com.

2 Emile Henry Artisan Ruffled **PIE DISH** in Pometerra, $65, Williams-Sonoma, williams-sonoma.com.

3 The Ranelagh Papers BP 1820 **WALLPAPER,** $245 per roll, Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com.

4 Ralph Lauren Home Abrielle **CAMPAIGN STOOL,** from $2,085, Elte, elte.com.

5 Tassimo T55 **BREWER** in Lucent Red, $229, Tassimo, tassimo.ca.

6 Diptyque Tubereuse Rouge **CANDLE,** $88, Holt Renfrew, holtrenfrew.com.

7 Red Plush **TOSS CUSHION,** $30, Pier 1 Imports, pier1.ca.

8 French Café **CHAIR** in Red Stain, $129 US, Restoration Hardware, restorationhardware.com.

9 Nars Pure Matte **LIPSTICK** in Terre de Feu, $32, Sephora, sephora.ca.

10 Louis Jadot Bourgogne Pinot Noir **WINE,** $18, available at your local liquor store.

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ALMOND & PEAR TART

An easy-to-make and delicately flavoured frangipane-style favourite.

PRODUCER
TARA BALLANTYNE

TEXT
ERYN CHESNEY

PHOTOGRAPHY
JOE KIM

TIME IS VALUABLE during the holidays and, as such, we recognize the need for simple desserts with great taste. This casual take on a patisserie staple is just that, with buttery almond filling and fresh pear complementing each other perfectly. So ditch that fruitcake recipe once and for all; this tempting tart is going to be your new holiday go-to.

DIY DECOR
Customize white napkins or tea towels using iron-on decals. Simply print your favourite design onto transfer paper and iron it onto your linens.

a perfect pear

RECIPE DEVELOPMENT & FOOD STYLING, TARA BALLANTYNE; PHOTOGRAPHY, JOE KIM/TC MEDIA

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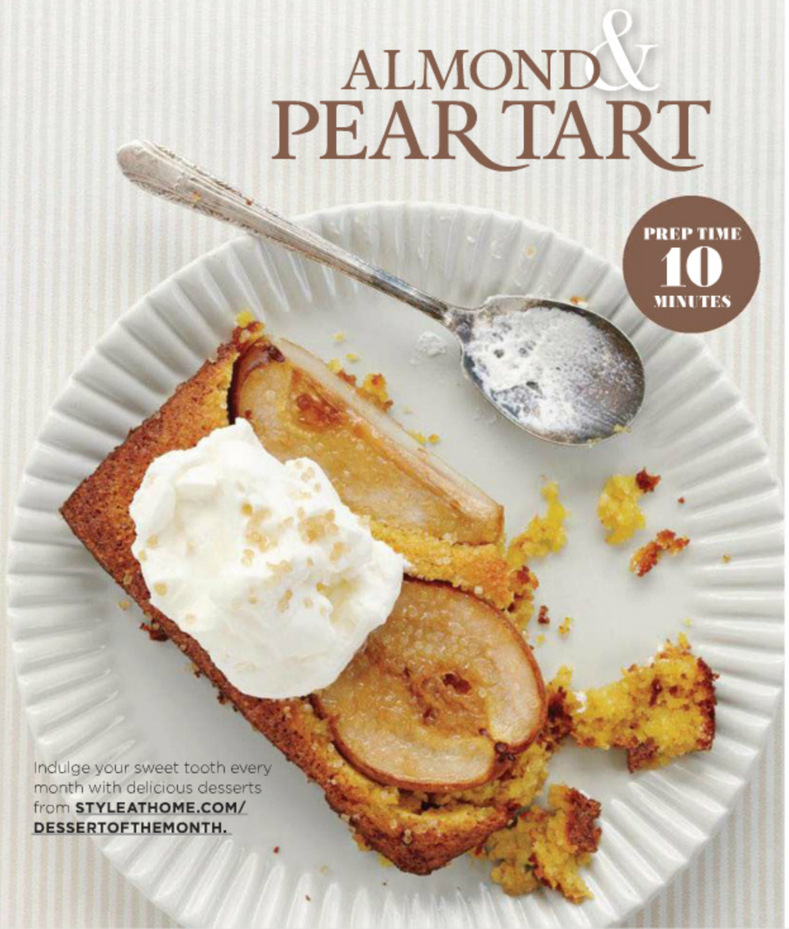
BE INSPIRED AT PC.CA/BLACKLABEL

INGREDIENTS
SERVES 6

- ⅓ cup unsalted butter, softened
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1⅓ cups almond meal
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- ¼ tsp baking powder
- Zest of 2 lemons
- 3 Gaucho pears, peeled, cored and halved
- Raw sugar for dusting
- Whipped cream for serving

1. PREHEAT THE OVEN to 325°F. Lightly grease an 11" tart pan.
2. ADD THE BUTTER and sugar to the bowl of a food processor; beat until just combined. Add the eggs, almond meal, flour, baking powder and lemon zest and process until all the ingredients are just incorporated. Spoon the mixture into the prepared tart pan.
3. ARRANGE THE PEARS, skin side down, on top of the tart mixture and bake for 35 to 40 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the centre of the tart comes out clean.
4. SPRINKLE THE TART with the raw sugar and allow to cool in the pan. Serve with whipped cream.

ALMOND & PEAR TART



Indulge your sweet tooth every month with delicious desserts from **STYLEATHOME.COM/DESSERTOFTHEMONTH.**

PRESIDENT'S CHOICE® BLACK LABEL COLLECTION

VANILLA AND BROWN BUTTER SALTED CARAMEL APPLE SUNDAES

Serves: 4 • Prep time: 10 minutes • Cooking time: 10 minutes • Cool time: 5 minutes

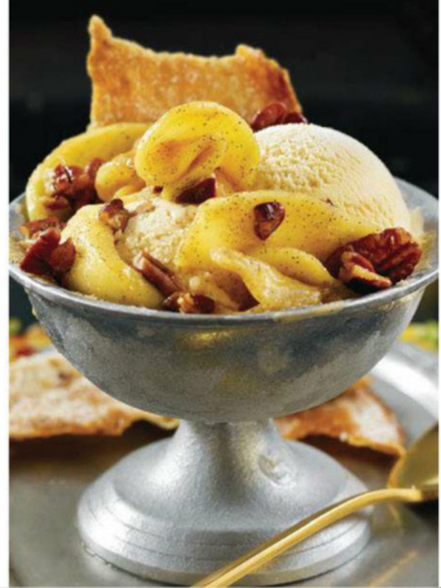
1. Using a sharp knife, scrape seeds from vanilla pod; set seeds and empty pod aside. In large nonstick frying pan, melt butter over medium heat. Stir in vanilla seeds and pod, brown sugar, cinnamon, salt and lemon juice; cook, stirring, until sugar melts. Stir in apples; cover and cook for 6 to 10 minutes or until apples are tender, stirring occasionally to make sure sugar does not burn.

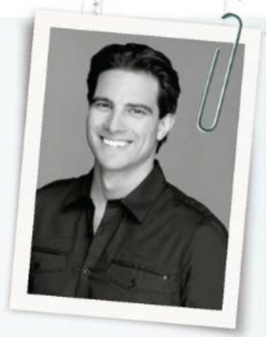
2. Remove pan from heat. Cool for 5 minutes.

3. Put two small scoops of ice cream in each of the four bowls. Top with warm apple mixture; garnish each with a cookie and some pecans. Serve immediately.

1 VANILLA BEAN, CUT IN HALF LENGTHWISE
3 TBSP (45 ML) UNSALTED BUTTER
1/4 CUP (50 ML) PACKED BROWN SUGAR
1/4 TSP (1 ML) PC® BLACK LABEL CINNAMON
PINCH SALT
1/2 TSP (2 ML) FRESH LEMON JUICE
2 GOLDEN DELICIOUS APPLES, PEELED, CORED AND CUT IN THIN WEDGES
2 CUPS (500 ML) PC® BLACK LABEL SALTED CARAMEL ICE CREAM
4 ALL-BUTTER BELGIAN WAFFLE COOKIES
1/2 CUP (125 ML) TOASTED PECANS

BE INSPIRED AT PC.CA/BLACKLABEL





tiling 101

Tiles are a fast and inexpensive design solution. Installation must be done correctly because repairing mistakes is costly and difficult, but with some guidance, laying tile is a job that most homeowners can tackle on their own. Here are some tips to help you on your next tiling project. **TEXT** SCOTT MCGILLIVRAY

cost

If you have an eye for a deal, buying clearance tile is a fantastic way to save money. Stores will often clear out lower volumes at sell-out prices to make way for new products. Tiles increase in price based on material, colour and the intricacy of design. My advice is to search for bargains and then mix in higher quality tiles as accents. In all of my projects, I try to keep tiling jobs down in price because you can get a lot of impact for a small investment.

grades

If you've ever bought tile, you'll know that it's classified into different grades based on the suggested application. There are five grades of tile: Grade I to Grade V. Grade I tiles are thin and are only used for walls because they crack easily if walked on. Grade II tiles are good for walls and floors with lighter traffic. Grade III tiles are a bit sturdier, thicker and would be my choice for heavier traffic areas. A Grade IV tile is used more commercially and a Grade V tile is almost exclusively used in industrial settings.

materials

Selecting which tile to use for your job really depends on the size of your pocketbook. Tiles are priced per square foot so you should have a rough estimate of the size of the space you're working with. Tiles can range from a couple to a few hundred dollars per square foot. If you've got champagne tastes on a beer budget, don't worry, you still have choices. Ceramic and porcelain tiles are usually the most budget-friendly, whereas quarried stones, such as marble, slate and granite, are more costly. There are some great inexpensive options in glass and mosaic tile if you're after a more decorative look for a backsplash or a front entryway.

patterns

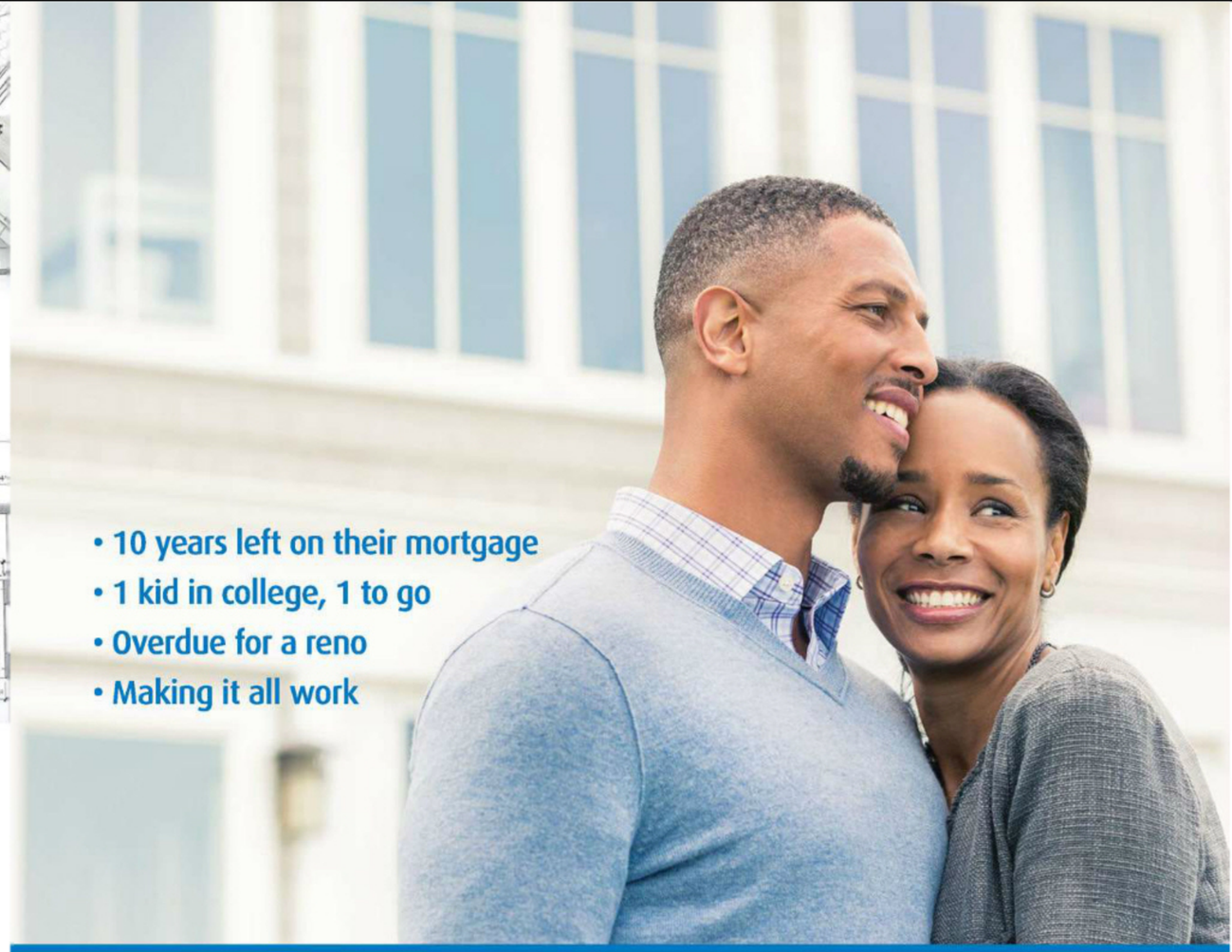
The size of the tile you want will dictate your pattern choices. For subway tiles in a kitchen backsplash or bathroom, the brick pattern or running bond is the most popular. If you're tiling an entrance, you might choose a checkerboard pattern with two contrasting colours. If your tiles are smaller, a pinwheel or basket weave pattern might appeal to you for a tinier space like a shower. Before you set things in stone, so to speak, play around with the shapes and designs until you know the look you want, because once they're down, they're down!

grout

All tiles need to be grouted and some need to be sealed. There are three types of grout: unsanded, sanded and epoxy. Unsanded grout is for smaller grout lines, sanded grout is for lines larger than ⅛" and epoxy can be used for pretty much any project. Epoxy prevents stains, repels moisture and is stronger, but it does cost more and sets faster, so you need to know what you're doing. The colour you tint the grout can either blend with the colours in the tile, or make a design statement on its own (if you use a darker grout with a lighter tile or vice versa). When it comes to sealing, tiles that are more porous, such as slate and marble, tend to require sealing to prevent staining, moisture, mildew and cracking, so be sure to ask about maintenance and upkeep when you purchase your tile.

Scott McGillivray is the host of HGTV's *Income Property*. Catch back-to-back episodes Thursdays at 9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on HGTV.

PHOTOGRAPHY, TIM LEYES, COURTESY OF HGTV CANADA (PORTRAIT); ISTOCKPHOTO



- 10 years left on their mortgage
- 1 kid in college, 1 to go
- Overdue for a reno
- Making it all work

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To create a stunning centrepiece, author, gardener and decorator Carolyne Roehm employed a variety of textures in a simple palette spilling out of a wide-mouthed vase. "Lilacs and viburnum make good companions – each is a thousand flowers in one," she explains. The effect feels luxuriously over the top.

FEELING FORMAL

THE PERKS OF BEING A GARDENER

Style icon Carolyne Roehm, who has made her mark on the worlds of fashion, decor and entertaining, turns again to the topic of beautiful blooms in her brand new book, *Flowers*, in which the fruits of her own gardening labour and newly developed photography skills are proudly on display. Here, we've excerpted some of our favourite arrangements.

PHOTOS REPRINTED FROM *FLOWERS*. COPYRIGHT © 2012 BY CAROLYNE ROEHM. PUBLISHED BY CLARKSON POTTER/PUBLISHERS, A DIVISION OF RANDOM HOUSE, INC.

PRODUCER SARA CATION

PHOTOGRAPHY CAROLYNE ROEHM

CRAVING CASUAL

"The interesting thing about lilacs," says Carolyne in her new book, *Flowers*, "is that, in a bouquet, they can serve as both foreground and background simultaneously." The key, though, is to hide their stems. In a glass vase, "they become a part of the picture and look messy."

CHEERFUL ELEGANCE

"I'm not a big fan of arranging rules," says Carolyne. "If you read those old flower-arranging books, you end up with very artificial-looking bouquets." Instead, Carolyne lets her experience as an apprentice at one of the finest florists in Paris, as well as her instinct, guide her through mixing shape, colour, texture and size to pleasing effect, as shown at right in this playful mixed arrangement.

When Carolyne pores over seed catalogues, she often thinks in terms of which blooms lend themselves well to bouquets. "Dahlias are especially bouquet-friendly, not only for their variety but also because – unless an exceptionally large flower causes them to droop – they have strong necks." And, about the large-headed Peaches and Cream variety shown here, Carolyne says: "It's a wonderfully frothy flower, and as the saying goes...it doesn't take many to make a dozen." By varying the height of the blooms throughout, the look is casual rather than contrived.

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This is a must. Put it on in the morning and you're set all day. Up to 41 stunning colours, up to 16 hour wear!
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EASY & EFFORTLESS

A simple silver bud vase is all it takes to make a showpiece out of a few small blooms. Here, Angelique and Negrita tulips mix with some muscari to make for a pretty look that takes only seconds to put together.

"Maybe you can't have multiple simultaneous love affairs with people (well, not without a lot of complication), but you can with flowers: As much as I favour red tulips, my heart belongs as well to luscious purples, pinks and violets."

A shock of fuchsia serves as centrepiece for this alfresco tablescape, as tulips in a spectrum of pink are buoyed by cuttings from Carolyne's crabapples and lilacs. To create continuity, she matched every element, taking notes from the garden setting for the flowers on the table (all in bloom at the time) and the tableware (cranberry stemware and china with a pink flower motif). The overall effect conjures the elegance of the English countryside.

MATCHING MAGIC

RUSTIC TRADITIONAL

"While I enjoy mixing roses with roses," says Carolyne in her book, "even that most elegant of flowers appreciates a little company." Combined with white snapdragons, miniature daisies and leafy greens, roses in full bloom billow from a woven basket. This arrangement looks as if this is exactly how Carolyne brought it in from outside. There's a natural sensibility to the basket, but the controlled colour palette reminds us that a human hand pulled it together.

"The rose, more than any other flower I know, forms a special alchemy with experience, one that makes every moment more intense: It is love's ability to bring us uniquely to life, captured in a fragrant assemblage of petals...."

ORNATE OVERTURE

Various varieties of white roses explode out of a barely visible 18th-century trophy vase with ornate relief. Filled fully with a bounty of blooms to show almost no green, the roses Carolyne chose play with texture, shape and scale, providing subtle touches of colour in the palest pink petals and yellow stamens. The result is a formal showpiece that's breathtakingly all blossom.

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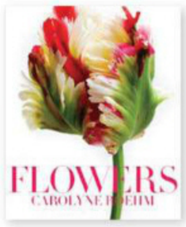
COUNTRY COLOUR

The inspiration for so many classic English chintzes, roses are one of the author's favourite flowers. "At the end of June, I have masses of roses blooming in various gardens, and can create the big, multi-coloured bouquets that I so much enjoy," says Carolyne, who loves not only to mix colour, but also to mingle traditional varieties with modern ones.

REDDING RAINBOW

"In the rose, I find taffeta and tulle, deep red velvet, a bouffant gown...." With her background in fashion (working with Oscar de la Renta and then launching her own label), Carolyne is drawn to colour combos that are prevalent in fashion but not favoured by your local florist.



***FLOWERS* BY CAROLYNE ROEHM** (Clarkson Potter, 2012) explores how blooms from her garden function in a room. With more than 300 photos of Carolyne's own plantings and arrangements, this book is a pretty peek into her "wild side." Look for it in stores across Canada this November.

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Nicole Scherzinger knows a thing or two about strength—from her empowering songs to her rockin' body. For a moisture makeover, Nicole relies on **Honey, I'm Strong Rinse Off Treatment**, which protects against styling damage from root to tip.

The indulgent honey apricot formula gets the job done by revitalizing damaged hair, but leaves a silky-smooth finish with endless shine (and a divine scent!).

"With all the styling I get for performances and photo shoots, my hair can end up really dry. The Rinse Off Treatment brings my hair back to life. I couldn't live without it!"

–Nicole Scherzinger

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high OR low...

can you tell the difference?

On this small sideboard sits the setup for an elegant digestif, so go ahead and let your dinner guests continue their conversation, whether your budget befits a lighthearted chat or a lively debate.

Behr Flapper Dance T13-13 **WALL PAINT,** The Home Depot, homedepot.ca.

PRODUCER MORGAN LINDSAY

TEXT SARA CATION

PHOTOGRAPHY RYAN BROOK

PHOTOGRAPHY: RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA

high or low

HIGH $8,619

- **$57 per metre** — Marimekko cotton/linen Kattila 190 **FABRIC** in Black and White, The Finnish Place, finnishplace.com.
- **$52 per metre** — Marimekko cotton Metsanvaki 160 **FABRIC,** The Finnish Place, finnishplace.com.
- **$395** — Børge Mogensen beechwood J49 **CHAIR** in Black, Mjölk, mjolk.ca.
- **$395** — Crystal **DECANTER** with Sterling Rim, Cynthia Findlay Antiques, cynthiafindlay.com.
- **$35** — Stainless steel Shiny **BAR TRAY,** CB2, cb2.com.
- **$116** — Crystal Dorset Double Old-Fashioned **WHISKY GLASSES,** $29 each, Williams-Sonoma, williams-sonoma.com.
- **$262** — Vera Wang for Wedgwood Naturals Graphite **PLATES & BOWLS,** $65.50 per 4-piece place setting, William Ashley China, williamashley.com.
- **$150** — Seltzer **PENDANT LIGHT,** EQ3, eq3.com.
- **$382** — St. James silver-plated Oval **PITCHER,** William Ashley China, williamashley.com.
- **$145** — Metal black and gold **BOWL,** Elte, elte.com.
- **$275** — Crystal Old-Fashioned **WHISKY GLASSES,** per set of 3, Cynthia Findlay Antiques, cynthiafindlay.com.
- **$1,750** — Walnut veneer Annex **SIDEBOARD,** Stylegarage, stylegarage.com.
- **$4,605** — Vintage Moroccan Beni Ourain **RUG,** 6' x 12', Elte, elte.com.

LOW $2,227

- **$5 per metre** — Cotton Julita **FABRIC** in Black and White, IKEA, ikea.ca.
- **$8 per metre** — Cotton Saralisa **FABRIC,** IKEA, ikea.ca.
- **$97 US** — Beechwood Salt **CHAIR** in Black, Design Within Reach, dwr.com.
- **$64** — Glass Library **DECANTER,** Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.
- **$15** — Groggy **TRAY,** IKEA, ikea.ca.
- **$40** — Designer Double Old-Fashioned **WHISKY GLASSES,** per set of 4, HomeSense, homesense.ca.
- **$120** — Camden Stone **PLATES & BOWLS,** per 16-piece set, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.
- **$119** — IKEA PS 2012 LED **PENDANT LIGHT,** IKEA, ikea.ca.
- **$35** — Stainless steel Shiny **WATER PITCHER,** CB2, cb2.com.
- **$20** — Angenäm **BOWL,** IKEA, ikea.ca.
- **$8** — Glass Frasera **WHISKY GLASSES,** $4 each, IKEA, ikea.ca.
- **$699** — Walnut veneer Saga **SIDEBOARD,** CB2, cb2.com.
- **$1,039** — Wool Beni Ourain **RUG,** 8' x 10', Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.

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HOW-TO

1 Cut circles of fabric at least 2" wider than your embroidery ring.

2 Set the fabric, face down, atop the larger circle of your embroidery ring.

3 Carefully set the smaller circle of the embroidery ring on top of the larger (with fabric); centre and push down to tighten and secure fabric.

4 Pull the edges of the fabric on all sides until the framed area is smooth and taut.

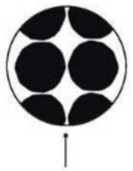
5 Tighten the screw on the side of the embroidery ring to secure.

6 Trim any excess fabric and hang the embroidery ring on the wall.

MATERIALS
- Fun fabrics
- Sharp scissors
- Embroidery rings in multiple sizes

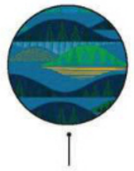
MARRY ME, **MEKKO**

Founded by Finnish Armi Ratia in 1951, Marimekko is famous for bold, graphic prints in vibrant colours that are at once trendy and timeless. Collaborating with an arsenal of designers, both brand new and well established, the company puts very little restriction on design and, as a result, its prints are perfectly unique.



In 1956, designer Maija Isola made this print by roughly cutting circles with scissors. Its name, fittingly, is Kivet (or, in English, stones).

In production since its design in 1964, Maija's popular Unikko pattern broke the Marimekko mantra that forbade prints with flowers.



Part of the new Winter 2012 collection, this Kultakero print by illustrator Sanna Annukka is inspired by the forested Finnish wilderness.

high-low meter

Use a simple black **pendant light** to highlight your bar area. The lower it hangs, the more specific your spotlight is, so your guests know exactly where to source their next sip of scotch.

highest — **lowest**

crystal clear

Whether or not you believe in its powers of healing or potential to predict the future, one thing about crystal is certainly clear: It carries the decorative skill to elevate any room. And the crystal (or crystal look) of these **decanters** boasts the ability to boost any mood...particularly when filled with spirits.

HIGHEST
Crystal with Sterling Rim, $395, Cynthia Findlay Antiques, cynthiafindlay.com.
Atlantis crystal, $165, Cynthia Findlay Antiques, cynthiafindlay.com.
HIGH
Atlantis crystal Soprano, $135, William Ashley China, williamashley.com.
LOW
Glass Library, $64, Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com.
LOWEST

HIGH, LEFT TO RIGHT Rémy Martin Fine Champagne Cognac VSOP, $80; Blanton's The Original Single-Barrel Bourbon, $65; Glenfiddich Single Malt Scotch Whisky, $102, available at your local liquor store.

BUILD A BAR ON **YOUR BUDGET**

LOW, LEFT TO RIGHT Courvoisier Cognac, $56; Bulleit Bourbon Frontier Whiskey, $38; The Glenlivet Single Malt Scotch Whisky, $63, available at your local liquor store.

pitcher *perfect*

Silver-plated **pitchers** carry an air of prestige and build a pretty antique-look patina with age while stainless steel ones are often more affordable and won't tarnish or rust. So if you're in the market for a new pitcher, do some product research and choose a style that suits you.

1 Stainless steel Shiny, $35, CB2, cb2.com. **2** St. James silver-plated Oval, $382, William Ashley China, williamashley.com. **3** Silver-plated, $125, Cynthia Findlay Antiques, cynthiafindlay.com.

For how to create a stylish and chic at-home bar on a budget, visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/ATHOMEBAR.**

New
Wheat Thins
Spinach and Roasted Garlic
Wheat Thins
Sweet Potato
Wondering why you're suddenly craving crackers baked with real vegetables? Don't worry, we get that a lot.
You'll be back for more.

Christine's guide to

BAR CARTS

PRODUCER CHRISTINE HANLON

Inspired by the new vintage aesthetic seen on popular television series like *Mad Men*, *Downton Abbey* and *Boardwalk Empire*, bar carts have become somewhat *de rigueur* lately. Sophisticated yet quirky, stylish, practical and always ready to party, they're the key ingredient for a fabulous fete.

Vintage **BAR CART REPLATING,** Sun Polishing & Plating, sunpolishing.ca.

tip Consider buying vintage. You can easily refinish and paint the cart with a wonderful pop of colour or even a metallic finish. I especially love gold for its sophisticated retro appeal.

before you buy

- **How are you going to use the cart?** Do you intend to set up a full bar, or just a couple of bottles and some glasses? Will it stand in as a sideboard, or do you have an entirely different plan for it (see Other Uses, below)?
- **Consider style, finish, shape and decorative details.** What's the decor like in the room where it's going? Do you gravitate toward modern or traditional styles? What's the look that you're going for? For example, retro '60s glamour or formal and refined.
- **How sturdy is it?** Look for a cart that isn't too rickety (especially the vintage ones) if your plan is to accommodate heavier objects like bottles, books or even a table lamp.

styling tips

- **Top with a pretty tray** (if the bar cart doesn't have one built in) to corral glasses and bar tools.
- **Show off your best glassware and serveware,** as well as a pretty vase of fresh flowers, a pair of candlesticks and a book of delicious cocktail recipes. Often found with two- or three-tiered surfaces, bar carts offer a surprising amount of storage and display space.
- **Load up a bar cart with appetizers and drinks,** grouping bottles according to size, type or colour, and you're ready to go – bar carts make organizing a get-together that much easier. Round ones with wheels are easy to incorporate into any space.

other uses

- **Stock a bar cart with a table lamp** and other bedtime essentials in lieu of a nightstand.
- **Place tubside with a stack of towels,** some pretty soaps, candles and a glass of wine (it is a bar cart, after all).
- **Top with cookbooks, potted herbs and a bowl of fruit –** it's a great kitchen cart.
- **Use one in your home office.** Display supplies and books and keep a decanter, shaker and pretty glasses at the ready for impromptu *Mad Men*-style working cocktails (when you hit a creative wall).
- **Keep a bar cart next to your sofa;** it makes a fun and functional side table.
- **Fill it up with your favourite books** and place by a fireplace.

PHOTOGRAPHY, ANGUS FERGUSSON (INTERIOR)

9 stylish options

Bar carts are available in so many different styles, finishes and sizes. Most have built-in casters, which make them totally transportable and multi-functional, able to move from wallflower to star of the party!

Stainless steel 1950s Milo **BAR CART** in Nickel, $895 US, Restoration Hardware, restorationhardware.com.

1966 Collection porcelain enamel **BAR CART,** $2,687 US, Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

Ernest **BAR CART** in Pool, $179, CB2, cb2.com.

Go Go **BAR CART** in Linen, $363 US, Dransfield & Ross, dransfieldandross.biz.

Polished stainless steel and glass Mollin **BAR CART,** $795, Elte, elte.com.

Solid walnut Møller **BAR CART,** $1,630 US, Design Within Reach, dwr.com.

Maple Hotel **BAR CART,** $2,745 US, Hickory Chair, hickorychair.com.

Brass-plated Libations **BAR CART,** $699, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.

Råskog **BAR CART** in Turquoise, $70, IKEA, ikea.ca.

To discover the ultimate bar essentials for your next holiday party, visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/BARESSENTIALS.**

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christine's notebook

bring it home

We love the Libations bar cart from Crate and Barrel (left) for its look of Old Hollywood glam. Here's how we'd stock it.

Hollywood **COASTERS,** $68 US per set of 4, Jonathan Adler, jonathanadler.com.

Stainless Steel **BAR TOOL SET,** $116, Williams-Sonoma, williams-sonoma.com.

PC Hammered Metal **COCKTAIL SHAKER,** $12, Loblaws, Real Canadian Superstore, superstore.ca.

CLASSIC MARTINI

PREP TIME **2 MINUTES** | SERVES **1**

INGREDIENTS

1½ oz dry vermouth
2½ oz gin
3 green olives

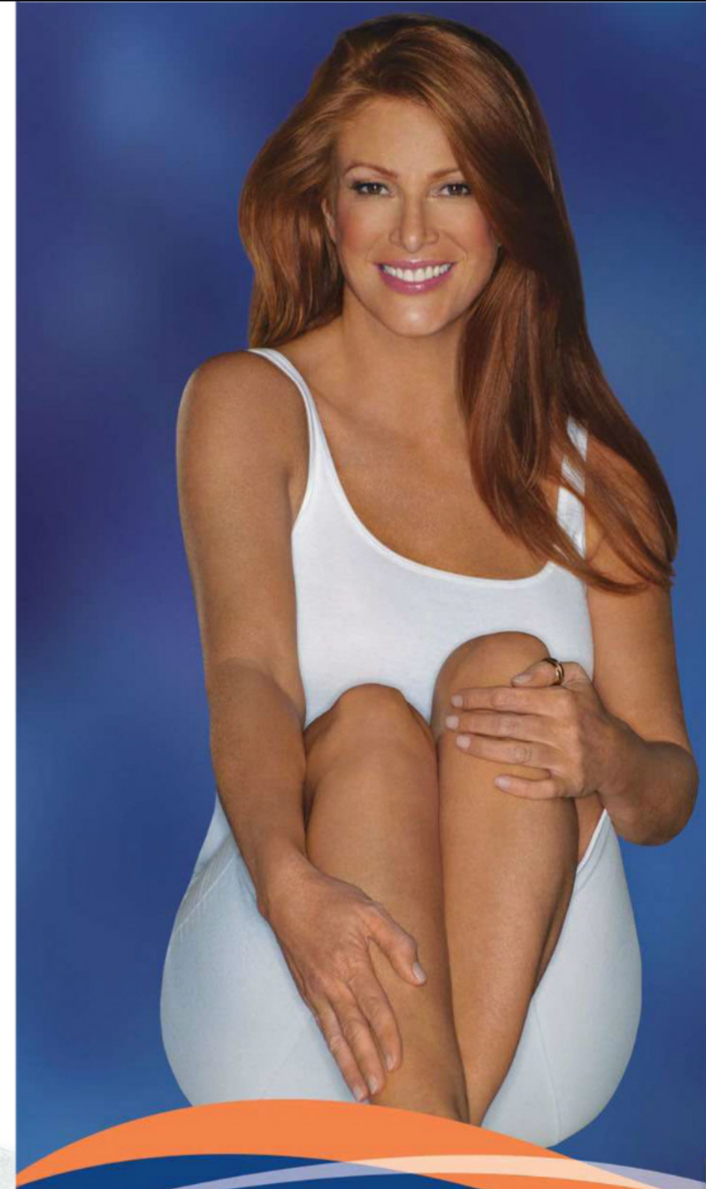
INSTRUCTIONS

Rinse a martini glass with the dry vermouth and pour out. Shake the gin with the ice in a cocktail shaker until chilled; pour it into the martini glass. Add the olives and serve.

Acrylic **MARTINI GLASS,** $5, CB2, cb2.com.

Gold Lacquered **TRAY,** $17, Pier 1 Imports, pier1.ca.

Metallic Clover Printed **NAPKIN,** $33 per set of 4, West Elm, westelm.com.



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ANGIE EVERHART

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PRODUCER STEPHANIE HUNG | **TEXT** CATHERINE THERRIEN | **PHOTOGRAPHY** RYAN BROOK

perfectly *presentable*

The tea towel is a classic hostess gift. To make your offering a bit more memorable this holiday season, here are six creative ways to present it in style.

idea 1

For the wine lover, supplement your gift by wrapping a tea towel around a bottle or two. Simply fold the towel down to size and secure to the bottle with baker's twine.

Organic linen Geese & Tree **TEA TOWELS,** Freshly Printed, freshlyprinted.ca

PHOTOGRAPHY: RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA

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Keurig offers over 100 varieties of coffee, tea and hot cocoa. Keurig is the ideal gift to brew what you love in under one minute.
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BREW WHAT YOU LOVE, SIMPLY.™

idea 2

Reuse a low-profile gift box and line it with a selection of precisely rolled graphic tea towels in a complementary palette. Give the gift with the lid off to create more visual impact.

Linen Mandala in Mineral, French Dot, Mandala in Willow, Tea Leaf in Copper, French Stripe and Forever Dot **TEA TOWELS,** Studiopatró, studiopatro.com

idea 3

Fold a tea towel around another small gift (think taper candles, hand soaps or chocolate) to form a pouch and wrap some string around the package a few times for a decorative effect.

Linen Hearts **TEA TOWELS,** Linea Carta, lineacarta.etsy.com

idea 4

Simple and tasteful, stack bright white folded terry towels together and tie with a pretty metallic ribbon.

Cotton All-Purpose **TEA TOWELS,** Williams-Sonoma, williams-sonoma.com

idea 5

Tuck a tea towel into a small woven basket to act as a liner and fill with delectable treats for the hostess with a sweet tooth.

Cotton Gingham **TEA TOWEL,** West Elm, westelm.com

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idea 6

Cover a cookbook (a new release or an old favourite) with a tea towel and secure to the inside with double-sided tape. Top off the gift with a wooden utensil.

Linen Cook and Bake **TEA TOWELS**, Studiopatró, studiopatro.com.

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‡ Enamel erosion around the gum line can lead to sensitive teeth.
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Price $350
Includes pre-lit tree, decorations & tree skirt.
FREE SHIPPING

Love to decorate for the holidays?

KORHANI HOME MAKES IT EASY

Are you a holiday traditionalist or someone who likes to mix it up each year? Whatever your preference, **KORHANI home** has the answer this season. With its new line of fully adorned holiday trees in one of three palettes, decorating your home has never been easier. In partnership with ***Style at Home*** editor-in-chief **Erin McLaughlin**, **KORHANI home's** creative director **Kirsten Korhani** developed three distinct looks that will suit every homeowner's personal holiday style – each for one low price with free shipping and handling. Order online today at **korhani.com** to receive yours in time to decorate your home for this year's festivities!

TREE-TRIMMING TIPS FROM KORHANI HOME

1 Your tree comes pre-lit, so you can begin by arranging the largest ornaments first.

2 Continue working with medium-sized ornaments next.

3 Make sure to balance shapes and colours.

4 Fill in any holes with sparkly snowflake ornaments.

5 Mix and match shiny with matte.

6 Add icicles to finish off the look.

Avantgarde Craft

A traditional look for lovers of classic holiday style, red and green ornaments adorn this 7.5-foot tree. Hits of gold add sparkle.

Price $350
Includes pre-lit tree, decorations & tree skirt.
FREE SHIPPING

Each tree collection-in-a-box arrives on your doorstep complete with one tree pre-wired with glimmering white lights, a collection of ornaments to match and a coordinating tree skirt – all ready to assemble in minutes. For an additional price, you can also order a coordinating 63" x 89" area rug to accent your decor.

See **korhani.com** for complete details, ordering information and palette options, or contact customerservice@korhani.com.

1 A natural scheme lends itself to woodland-inspired decorations.

2 Follow the same rule, placing large ornaments first, then moving to medium and small.

3 Fill in any holes with oversized glittering reindeer.

4 Botanical elements like faux sprayed eucalyptus add dimension.

5 Make sure that glitter is balanced with the richer tones on a natural-inspired tree.

6 The final touches are sweet cardinals right at eye level.

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decorating is fun! CHRISTMAS

A DOROTHY DRAPER

BAROQUE SHAPES • STRIPED WALLS • BOLD COLOUR

CHINTZ PATTERNS • GOLD FINISHES

Legendary decorator Dorothy Draper boldy declared in one of her tomes that "entertaining is fun!" We took her sentiment to heart and translated her signature interior stylings into a holiday soiree fit for the doyenne of design herself. With a mix of Dorothy's go-to motifs, such as flowering chintzes, black and white stripes and a heaping dose of gold, here are some ways to bring a hit of Hollywood glamour to your own festive season.

PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY OF THE GREENBRIER (HOTEL), FROM THE ARCHIVES OF DOROTHY DRAPER & CO. (PORTRAIT)

grand ENTRANCE

Offer your guests a sophisticated, warm welcome this holiday season. Add some contemporary rustic charm to your front hall with driftwood, faux fur, and metallic pieces from HomeSense to create a festive and inviting entryway. All at up to 60% less every day.

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"Don't forget fresh flowers and vases of greens. It's the things like that that make for hospitality."

DOROTHY DRAPER

the draper touch ON THE MANTEL

Think beyond classic red and white and go for bold instead when it comes to your stockings. Mixing and matching hits of chintz, sumptuous jewel-toned velvets and black and white ribbon really catches the eye.

Idyllic Isle 254-4 **WALL PAINT,** PPG Pittsburgh Paints, ppgpittsburghpaints.com; Shallow **FIREPLACE MANTEL, STOCKING SEWING,** Châtelet, chatelethome.com; Kindel Draper Café **ARMCHAIRS,** 1212 Decor, 1212decor.com; ceramic pine cone **FINIALS, ACCENT TABLE** in Antique Brass, Art Shoppe, theartshoppe.com; chinoiserie **VASES,** Italian turquoise **POT,** Cynthia Findlay Antiques, cynthiafindlay.com; faux boxwood **WREATH,** Winward Canada, winwardcanada.com; **RUG,** Elte, elte.com.

"Every good hostess has a sense of showmanship."

DOROTHY DRAPER

Enthrall guests with fanciful desserts designed to complement the decor, from sculptural flowering cupcakes to a cake with a hand-painted chintz motif.

CAKE, CUPCAKES, Cake Opera Co., cakeoperaco.com; Dauphine **CANDLESTICKS** in Black, Napoleon **ESPRESSO SPOON** in Pink, Rosanna, rosannainc.com; black china **TEACUP & SAUCER,** gold **TEAPOT,** milk glass **CAKE STAND,** gold and white china **TRAY,** Cynthia Findlay Antiques, cynthiafindlay.com; vintage Aldo Turo **BAR CART,** Ribbehege & Azevedo, ribbehegeandazevedo.com.

BELOW For our own spin on Draper-style holiday cards, we cut out blooms from cheery floral-patterned wallcoverings, layered them with stripes and borrowed the classic scroll design from the covers of Dorothy's cherished books, *Decorating Is Fun!* and *Entertaining Is Fun!*

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draper-style DINING

"When it comes to setting the table for Christmas dinner, let your imagination run wild!"

DOROTHY DRAPER

LEFT Lay the foundation for a fabulous dining table with linens that command attention – and what's more eye-catching than a black and white stripe? An antique architectural piece displays a favourite motif of Dorothy's: a dramatic swag. Gold antique Chiavari-style chairs are popular for entertaining because their small scale makes it possible to squeeze additional guests around the table. More is more!

Gold **CHATEAU CHAIRS,** Exclusive Affair Rentals, exclusiveaffair.com; zinc **ARCHITECTURAL PANEL,** Ribbehege & Azevedo, ribbehegeandazevedo.com; crystal **LUSTRES,** Cynthia Findlay Antiques, cynthiafindlay.com; round faux boxwood **TOPIARY BALLS,** Winward Canada, winwardcanada.com; **TABLECLOTH SEWING,** Châtelet, chatelethome.com; **RUG,** Elte, elte.com.

RIGHT & FAR RIGHT Gilded antique china and stemware add retro sparkle and flair, alongside crystal-adorned lustres and a compote holding a bouquet of bright-hued roses that look like they leaped right off a floral fabric.

Minton Buckingham china **PLACE SETTINGS,** gold **FLATWARE,** gold-rimmed **STEMWARE,** white and gold **FOOTED COMPOTE,** Cynthia Findlay Antiques, cynthiafindlay.com; ceramic Fleur-de-Lys **PLACE CARD** in Gold, PlaceTile Designs, placetile.com; gold flower **NAPKIN RINGS,** Thread-count, tcmiami.com.

DOROTHY'S *details*

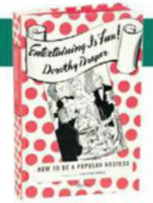
1889 Born on Nov. 22 in New York; née Tuckerman.

1912 Marries Dr. George Draper, personal physician to Franklin D. Roosevelt.

1923 Starts her own firm, Architectural Clearing House, the very first interior design company in North America.

1930 Receives her first major commission to decorate New York City's The Carlyle hotel.

1939 Her iconic decorating manual, *Decorating Is Fun!*, is published.



1941 Her second book, *Entertaining Is Fun!*, is published.

1946 Redesigns West Virginia's historic Greenbrier resort, a 1778 National Historic Landmark.

1969 Passes away on March 11.

2004 *Entertaining Is Fun!* is reissued and becomes a bestseller; *Decorating Is Fun!* follows in 2007.

today Her protege, Carleton Varney, continues her legacy as CEO of Dorothy Draper & Co.

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> "Nothing adds so much to the beauty and happiness of this world as colour." DOROTHY DRAPER

dreaming of A DRAPER CHRISTMAS?

Who said a Christmas tree has to be green? Dorothy was all about unexpected combinations and thinking outside the box. The result? A tree that emulates the look of a contemporary chintz by way of mixing bright faux blooms with jewel-toned ornaments on frosty white branches. Black and white striped wallpaper is the perfect graphic backdrop to offset the sumptuous flocked Christmas tree.

White pre-lit artificial **CHRISTMAS TREE,** faux **FLOWERS,** Winward Canada, winwardcanada.com; Black & White Striped BC1580005 **WALLPAPER,** Design by Color, designbycolor.net; Kindel Shield **MIRROR,** 1212 Decor, 1212decor.com; solid maple **ARMCHAIR** in Cloud, Art Shoppe, theartshoppe.com; pink velvet **SWIVEL STOOL, TOSS CUSHION SEWING,** Châtelet, chatelethome.com; Designers Guild Orangerie F1753-01 **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC,** through designers, Primavera, primavera.ca; **RUG,** Elte, elte.com.

RIGHT & TOP RIGHT
In a nod to Dorothy's love affair with wallpaper, we layered swathes of colourful wallcoverings and solid papers with luxe satin ribbons to fashion custom wrapping paper.

Solid **WRAPPING PAPER,** satin **RIBBONS,** Waste Not Paper, wastenotpaper.com; Designers Guild **WALLPAPERS,** through designers, Primavera, primavera.ca.

Learn about the man who continues the Dorothy Draper legacy, Carleton Varney, at **STYLEATHOME.COM/CARLETONVARNEY.**

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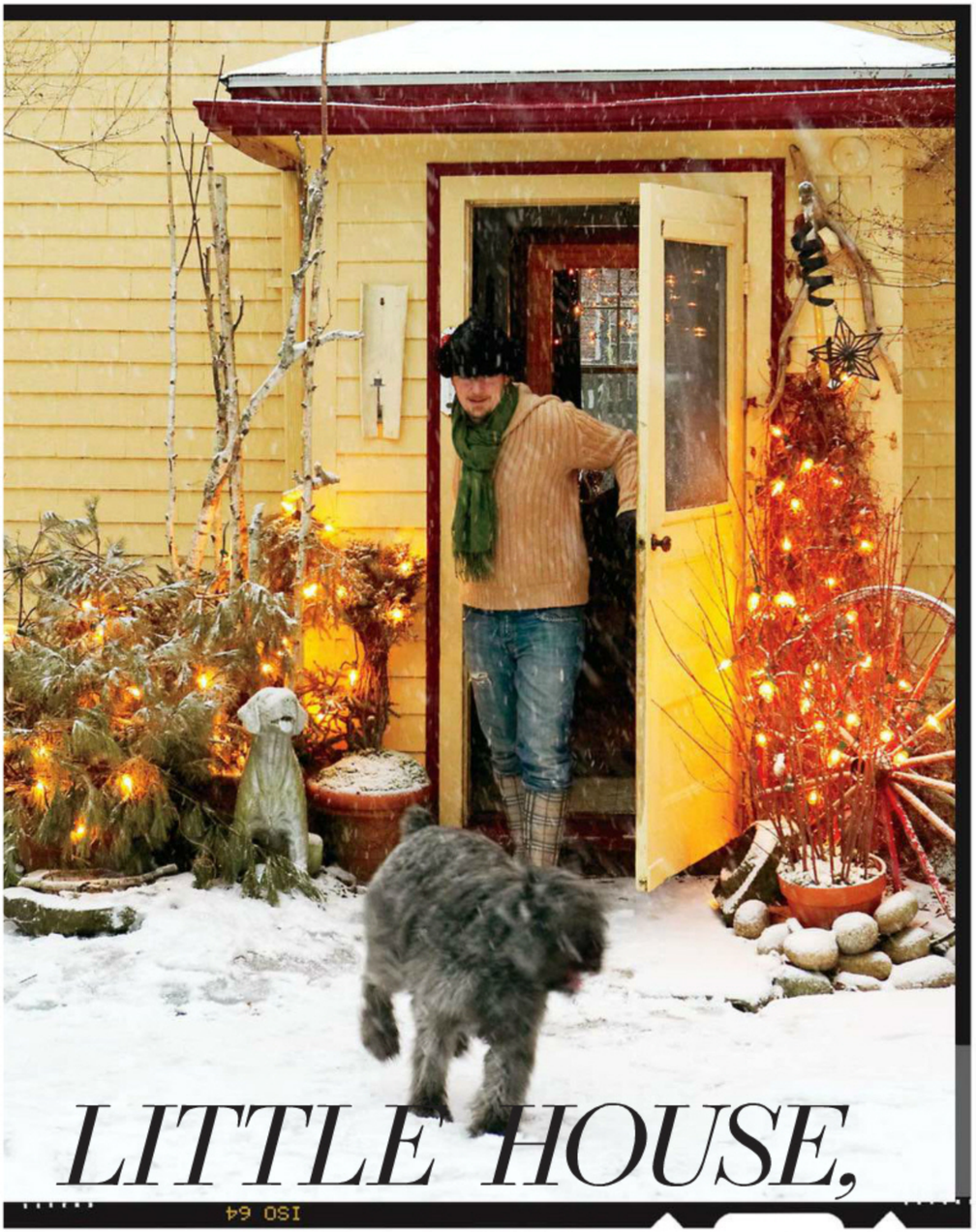

LITTLE HOUSE, BIG HEART

Not everyone can say they live in the caretaker's cottage of a former prime minister. But Jonathan Legate can. Here's how the Halifax-based interior design consultant spends the holidays in his small historic home.

TEXT
BETHANY LYTTLE

PHOTOGRAPHY
STACEY VAN BERKEL

Homeowner Jonathan Legate's dog, Kitty, leads the way on a snowy day. Flanking the entrance, vintage-style string lights with large bulbs set the stage for the interior of this antique abode.

DESIGN, Jonathan Legate Interior Consultation, jonathanlegate.com.

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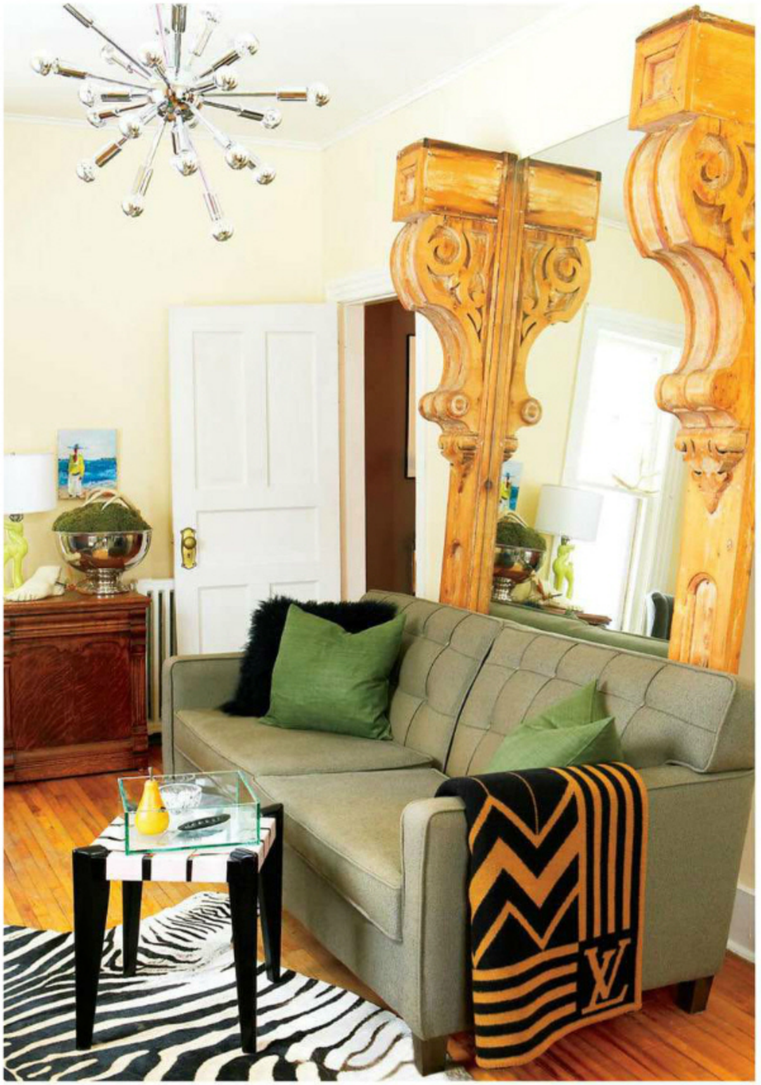

As twilight casts its gentle glow across the wet Maritime snow, amber candlelight flickers in the windows, making this former caretaker's cottage in Halifax look much as it did back in 1896, when Sir Charles Tupper was prime minister. But the year is now 2012 and the just-under-1,000-square-foot abode is a beacon to the many guests who will gather here during the holidays to swap stories, exchange gifts and indulge in homeowner Jonathan Legate's simmering cauldrons of seafood chowder and hot-from-the-oven tourtière.

Sure, the house is small. And, yes, there are cracks in the wall plaster and uneven boards in the floors. But that's what gives this antique dwelling its charm. "Its flaws are its character," says Jonathan, who's an interior design consultant. "Overfixing a historic house makes it look like a person who's had too much plastic surgery. An old house should be allowed to age gracefully."

And that it has. Whether it's a sit-down dinner for 16 guests or a stand-and-mingle party for more, the little house never feels small. So, how does he do it? "I have a storage locker filled with chairs," he confesses, laughing. "They come out for entertaining and go back when the parties are done."

ABOVE Architectural stiles that Jonathan salvaged from an old house in his hometown now frame a massive mirror, the living room's focal point. A vintage stool and satellite light fixture blend well here thanks to their simple lines.

Hepplewhite Ivory HC-36 **WALL PAINT,** Benjamin Moore; **THROW,** Louis Vuitton; **SOFA,** Sputnik **PENDANT LIGHT,** Attica; *At the Shore* **ARTWORK,** Luke Naylor; green **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC,** Robert Allen; **FLOOR MIRROR,** Jonathan Legate Interior Consultation.

RIGHT Jonathan loved the fabric on this vintage armchair and simplified its silhouette by removing the bottom ruffle.

ARTWORK (on back wall) by Renée Forrestall and Goody-B. Wiseman, Secord Gallery, Gallery Page and Strange; *Rainy Day* **ARTWORK** by Sara Caracristi, Argyle Fine Art.

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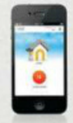

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SHOPPING IN STYLE

"But seriously," Jonathan adds, "the real reason my small house looks great during large parties is that I do then what I do all year-round." Whether it's the holidays or not, he sets out a combination of flea-market finds and expensive splurges. "Decorating from both ends of the spectrum basically guarantees that you'll have a look nobody else has," he says. So, at Christmas, Jonathan mixes inexpensive decorations and berries and foliage from the yard with a few special one-of-a-kind ornaments.

"Have fun with decorating," says Jonathan. "Be yourself!" And with that, he points to a wall where a picture hangs, nearly as low as the baseboard. "It's art for my dog, who incidentally is named Kitty," he says impishly. "The way to make a house really feel comfortable – for you and your guests – is to take a lighthearted approach."

ABOVE Jonathan bought his dining table at an auction when he was only 19 years old. "It's just two boards nailed to a frame," he says. Its simplicity echoes the humble beginnings of his cottage. Combined with a 1700s cabinet and chairs from France, the room is at once simple and sophisticated.

Stainless steel **POND FLOAT,** Henhouse; **PILSNER GLASSES,** NovaScotian Crystal; *Nest Eggs* **ARTWORK** by Shelley Mansel, Gallery Page and Strange.

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TEXT
JENNIFER HUGHES

PHOTOGRAPHY
STACEY BRANDFORD

STYLING
JESSICA WAKS

Puttin' on the Ritz

Designer Meredith Heron renovates this Toronto couple's condo in classic finishes and a subdued palette, creating the perfect backdrop for silver and crystal that's synonymous with holiday entertaining.

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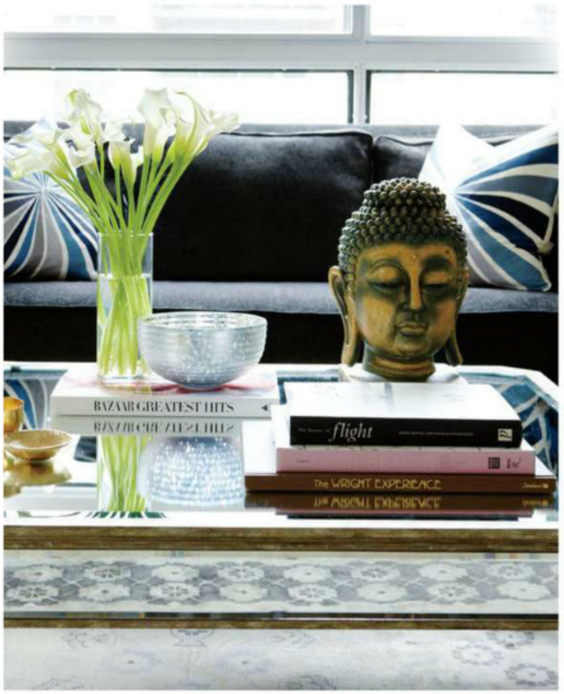

LEFT When entertaining, having a selection of hors d'oeuvres catered means one less thing to do!

CATERING, Toben Food by Design, Catering and Event Management, tobenfoodbydesign.com.

BELOW "I love to mix as much pattern as I can into a space," says designer Meredith Heron. For example, the low, feminine armchairs in the living room boast paisley fronts and trellis-patterned backs.

DESIGN, Meredith Heron Design, meredithheron.com; **ARMCHAIRS,** Meredith Heron Design; **ARMCHAIR FABRIC,** Robert Allen; glass **VASE,** Elte.

LEFT, TOP The charcoal chenille sofa has a bench seat – rather than the typical split seat – which allows for three people to sit comfortably.

Silver **BOWL,** gold **BOWLS,** *Harper's Bazaar: Greatest Hits* **BOOK,** *Cecil Beaton: The New York Years* **BOOK,** Elte.

LEFT, BOTTOM A marble mosaic backsplash, Carrara marble countertops and high-end hardware give the simple cabinetry a luxe look. Sparkly pendant lights are small enough that they don't block sightlines.

CABINETRY, IKEA; **BACKSPLASH,** Saltillo Imports; **PENDANT LIGHTS,** Uttermost; **KITCHEN FAUCET,** Brizo; **TRAY,** Elte; **PLATTER, ICE BUCKET** with tongs, William Ashley China.

"He's a little bit country, I'm a little bit rock 'n' roll," jokes homeowner Brigitte Talevski.

When it came time to tackle her and husband David Axelrad's dated 1,450-square-foot condo in downtown Toronto, they were overwhelmed by not only their disparate tastes but also the many demands on the main living area. "We needed a space that could let us relax and watch television yet still be elegant enough for entertaining," says David. And, because the couple loves to host a wide circle of friends and family, a proper cook's kitchen was at the top of Brigitte's wish list.

Enter designer Meredith Heron, who eased the couple's different styles into a cohesive, functional and beautiful space. First, Meredith had the tiny, closed-off U-shaped kitchen opened up to the main living quarters, the dated stucco ceilings hand-scraped smooth and new dark hardwood floors laid throughout. With the dividing wall gone, an extra-wide peninsula separates the new kitchen from the dining and living areas, granting plenty of room for spreading out while entertaining. The wide counter with a waterfall edge – another of Brigitte's must-haves – also →

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Designer Meredith Heron shares her **tips for creating an ideal entertaining space.**

1 Work in **plenty of storage** for extra dishes, glasses, trays and serving pieces.

2 Look for a **dining table that expands** to seat a generous number of guests when needed.

3 Provide a **variety of seating** options in the living area, such as stools, a large-scale ottoman and a pair of armchairs.

4 Opt for a **bench cushion,** rather than three separate seat cushions, on a three-seater sofa. This allows for three people to sit at once without the risk of having anyone sink into the cracks.

5 Create a **bar on top of a console table,** ideally not far from the home's entry. Trays of already-poured drinks are easy to hand out as guests arrive.

6 **Elegant and comfortable end chairs** in the dining room can be pressed into service as extra seating in the living room without looking like they've migrated from the dining table.

7 Have **lots of trays** handy to corral empty glasses and discarded plates and napkins. This helps whisk away the mess as the party progresses.

In the living area, a pair of clean-lined armchairs – upholstered in grey chenille with a slight mauve cast – are actually recliners ideal for watching movies. The soft rug incorporates greys, creams, yellows and blues from around the room. Furry sheepskins atop a pair of stools are a cozy touch for winter.

Windham 33-11 **WALL PAINT,** Pratt & Lambert; **ARMCHAIRS,** Meredith Heron Design; silk **RUG, STOOLS,** velvet wood grain **TOSS CUSHIONS,** velvet ombré **TOSS CUSHIONS** (on armchairs), **CANDLE HOLDERS,** wire **BOWL,** Elte; Bull's Eye **TOSS CUSHIONS,** West Elm; **STORAGE CABINET,** IKEA; round silver **TRAY,** Michael Aram New Molten **NUT DISH & TRAY,** L'Objet Bambou **BOWL, SALAD PLATES,** Hermès Bleus d'Ailleurs **TART PLATTER,** William Ashley China.

"Guests often comment that they feel like they're in a Manhattan apartment."

BRIGITTE TALEVSKI, HOMEOWNER

A gilded console table turns into a makeshift bar for serving drinks to guests as they walk in the room. Meredith chose black and white photographs with deep perspective to create the illusion of more space.

CONSOLE TABLE, Alexandra **SIDECHAIR, ARTWORK** by Charlie Waite, Elte; Monique Lhuillier Waterford Collection Arianne **CHAMPAGNE FLUTES,** L'Objet Bambou **CHAMPAGNE BUCKET,** silver **TRAY,** William Ashley China.

Check out Meredith Heron's own home at **STYLEATHOME.COM/MEREDITHHERON.**

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LEFT Cobalt blue plates are a welcome pop of colour in the otherwise muted decor scheme.

Hermès Bleus d'Ailleurs **BREAD & BUTTER PLATES,** William Ashley China.

BELOW Homeowners Brigitte Talevski and David Axelrad enjoy a pre-party drink with designer Meredith Heron in the kitchen that was customized with crown moulding and gables to make it look built-in. Cabinets on the dining room side of the peninsula hold extra dishes, glasses and serveware for when the couple is entertaining.

LEFT, TOP A pair of beautiful handcrafted bowls with delicate bead detailing continues the sparkle theme from the dining and living areas right into the kitchen.

Michael Aram New Molten **SERVING BOWL & NUT DISH,** William Ashley China.

LEFT, BOTTOM The simple espresso-stained Parsons-style dining table can extend to seat up to 12 people. The plush upholstered end chairs and dining chairs are comfortable enough to sit in for hours, allowing guests to linger longer after dinner.

CHANDELIER, Uttermost; silver **CHAMPAGNE BUCKET,** William Ashley China.

allows for back-to-back cabinetry below, providing loads of storage. Features like double wall ovens, a convection microwave oven and a deep sink make cooking and cleanup a cinch, whether hosting an intimate dinner party or cocktails for a crowd.

Since both Brigitte and David are screenwriters and film buffs – which is evident by their prized wire sculpture of Fred Astaire by artist Rudy Kehkla – the living room needed to accommodate their love of movie watching, so Meredith introduced a pair of custom armchairs with clean lines that belie the fact that they're recliners. A variety of other seating options, such as an elegant sofa, a pair of curvy paisley-clad armchairs and upholstered stools, means the space can also handle gatherings of friends and extended family with ease.

The subtly glamorous design – thanks to a muted palette with restrained hits of gold, silver, mirror and glass and a few dark-hued accents – brings together masculine and feminine elements in a space that caters to the everyday as well as special occasions, appealing to both husband and wife and visitors alike. Just like your favourite holiday flick, this home is a classic in the making and one you'll want to revisit over and over again.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

STEVEN AND CHRIS

Steven and Chris Holiday Week - begins December 10th

Can you hear those sleigh bells ringing? The holidays are just around the corner. But help is here. Steven and Chris have you covered with everything from festive DIY projects and décor tips to throwing great parties with the most delectable holiday menu. The boys also dish on great gift ideas and the latest in beauty and fashion trends.

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new-fashioned holiday

PHOTOGRAPHY LINNEA PRESS

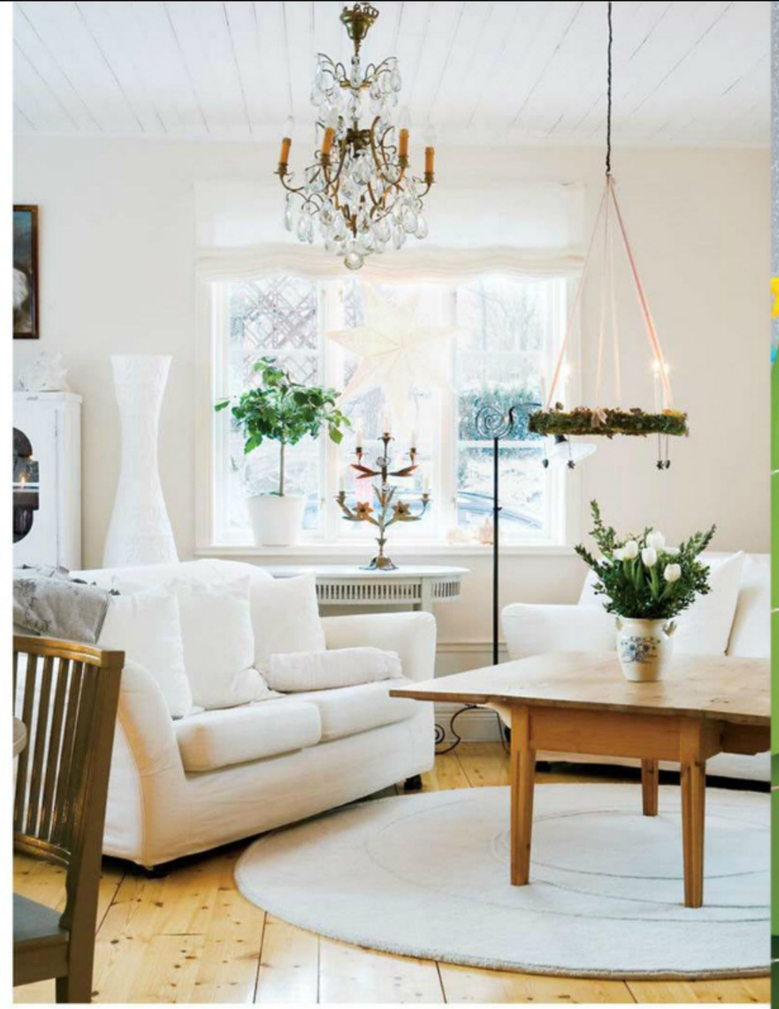
Handmade decorations, antiques and sweet treats make for a simple and nostalgic season in this charming winter wonderland.

A charming gingerbread house, complete with windows made of sheets of gelatin, can stay on display all through the winter.

The dark red patina of this hundred-year-old country house stands out in the stark, wintry landscape.

RIGHT The clean and simple living room is cozily furnished in a warm white-on-white palette with hits of natural greenery.

BOTTOM RIGHT Spring bulbs peek through a snow-covered arrangement that's topped with frosted faux apples.



Just looking at this charming 1920s country house, one can't help but think of Christmas. Its dark red exterior is lightly dusted with snow, just like icing sugar sprinkled over a red velvet cake. Come in from the cold and you'll be greeted by an enchanting winter wonderland inspired by holidays past. It's evident that this homeowner likes to celebrate the season in the traditional way of her native Scandinavia, complete with homemade touches – including a hand-sewn Christmas elf and a magnificent gingerbread house with glittering white frosting and splendid windows – evergreen trees and candlelight. In other words, all is calm here, all is bright.

Other homemade pieces, such as vintage-inspired ornaments, baked treats and flower arrangements, add to the charming vibe. Since her favourite flowers, roses, are asleep under a carpet of snow, the homeowner brings her passion for gardening indoors and instead adorns the rooms with boxwood boughs, moss wreaths and potted bulbs, such as amaryllis and forced hyacinths. The greenery plays happily with natural rustic touches and a candy-cane colour scheme, which features Swedish-style red and white crafted paper ornaments and lengths of ribbon.

Vintage treasures, too, are always part of the Christmas decor here. Weathered white-painted French antiques are pressed into service to display holiday vignettes, while old Swedish pieces hold gifts and seasonal accents. The homeowner's festive look is both warm and welcoming, as well as fresh and rustic – clearly a natural extension of her everyday aesthetic, honed by time and inherited traditions. Christmas is, after all, as much about sharing old memories as it is about creating new ones.

Natural pine floors complement the rustic holiday decorating scheme. The homeowner's houseplants were the starting point for the green-on-white theme.

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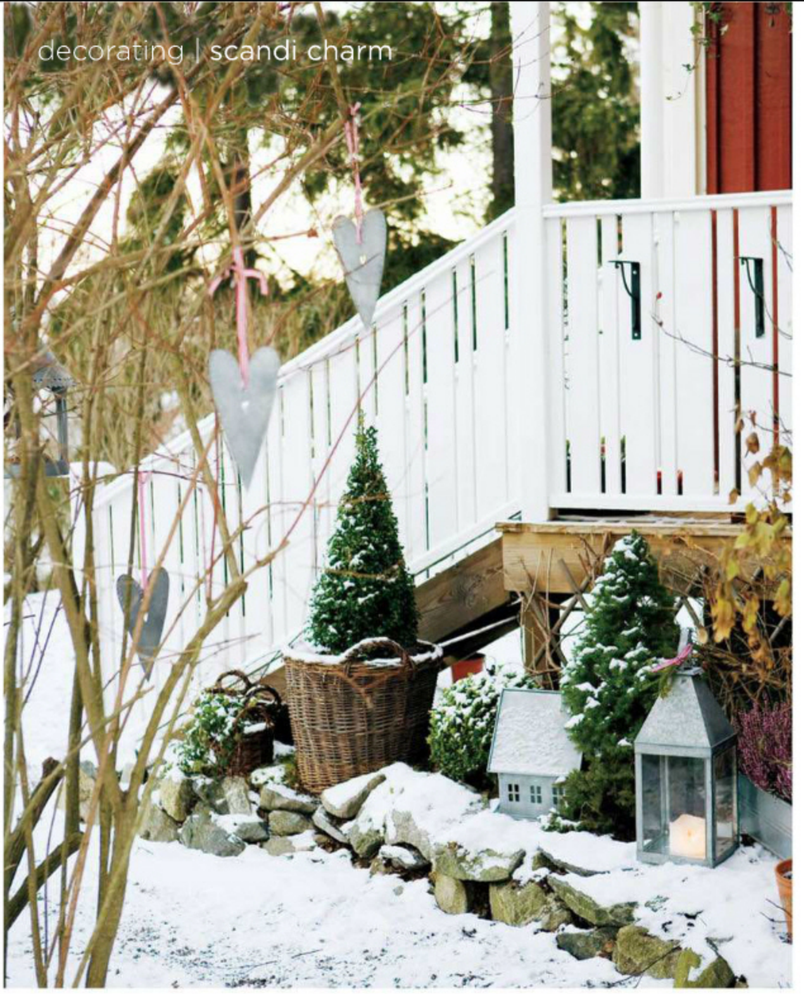

ABOVE A layered exterior vignette is arranged with candlelit lanterns, evergreens and ornaments strung on bare branches, all on a backdrop of freshly fallen snow.

LEFT The antique corner cupboard was inherited from the homeowner's grandfather. It draws the eye and gives the living room presence and character.

RIGHT, FROM TOP For a romantic touch, a moss-covered wreath lit with faux candles hangs over the coffee table; a nativity scene sits between two wooden bell towers; a hand-made ornament fashioned from an antique tart tin adorns the Christmas tree.

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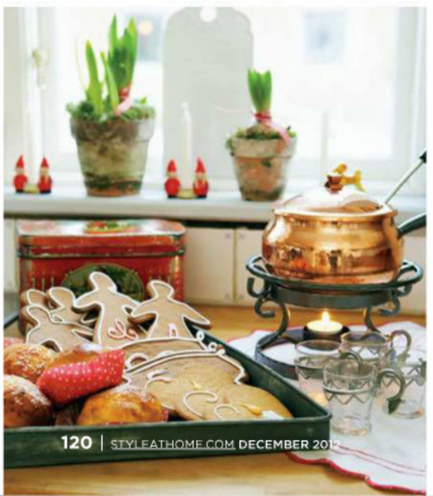


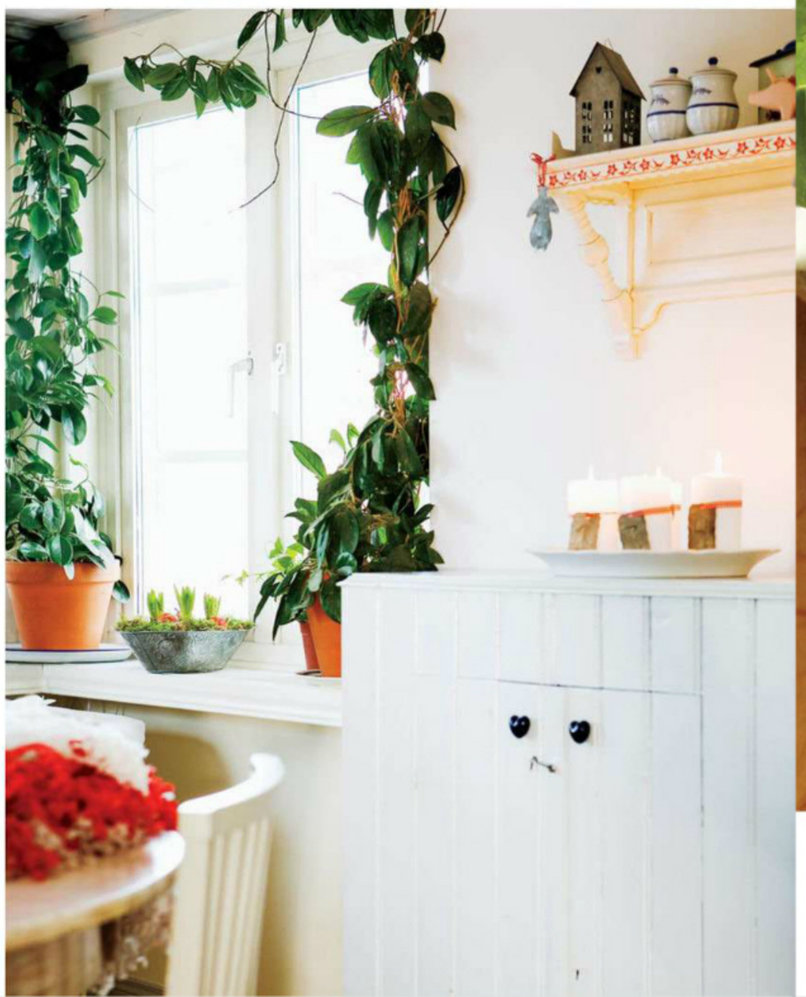
LEFT Even the antique French armoire in the kitchen gets a touch of holiday spirit with decorations from the homeowner's native Sweden.

LEFT, CENTRE Apples, hyacinths and white hellebores make for a verdant centrepiece.

LEFT, BOTTOM Gingerbread and fondue make a fun and festive après-ski snack for both adults and children.

RIGHT A tiered candelabra on a table beside the window is decked with traditional Scandinavian tin hearts, angels and coloured candles.

BELOW Ersatz Advent candles glow on the rustic pie safe. (Remember not to leave burning candles unattended.) Trailing houseplants grow up and over the window to create a garland effect in the welcoming kitchen.



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Holiday GIFT GUIDE

Looking for an ideal hostess gift, a little something extra for the kids or a present that's just right for that special someone in your life? Here are some of this year's must-haves.

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Entertain with Elegance

Entertain with this elegant mirrored dining table with antique bronze finish and add super comfortable upholstered dining chairs with a beautiful soft fabric. Add a touch of sparkle for the holidays with reindeers! Available at **Zilli Home Interiors**, 672 Chrislea Road, Woodbridge, Ontario. **www.zillihome.com**

Relax in Style

This flat out sleeper sofa by **Blu Dot** makes a wonderful holiday gift for the ones you love. It's 80" width fits into almost any space. The name says it all. Sit up or sleep it off. Quickly convert from upright lounging to horizontal sprawl. Playful stitching, kicky French seams and a solid stainless steel base add pizzazz to the straightforward yet inviting form. Available in brick red, grey, smoke and stone. Available now at **Shelter Furniture**, 885 Caledonia Road, Toronto, Ontario. **www.shelterfurniture.ca**

Charming Gift

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PHOTOGRAPHY: DONNA GRIFFITH. STYLING: JESSICA WHITE

2012 December

ROOMS IMBUED WITH THE RICHES OF THE SEASON CREATE COZY GLAMOUR FOR ALL THE SENSES

merry modern 126

for your entertainment 132

making spirits bright 138

simple celebration 146

light the way 154

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TEXT BETHANY LYTTLE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DONNA GRIFFITH | **STYLING** ERIN FEASBY & CINDY BLEEKS

Sarah Ferguson's home delivers an evergreen-scented welcome, thanks to the fresh wreath on the front door. Sarah can drop her keys on the antique wall-mounted console. Ornate and dramatic, it makes a fun counterpoint to the bold striped wallpaper that accentuates the home's towering ceilings.

DESIGN, Feasby & Bleeks Design, feasbyandbleeks.com; Designers Guild **WALLPAPER,** Primavera; **PENDANT LIGHT,** Decorum Decorative Finds.

OPPOSITE Luxurious velvet in deep charcoal serves as the backdrop for the sofa's vibrant magenta and pink toss cushions. Across the living room, cut velvet damask and stripes enliven two armchairs that both celebrate and wink at tradition. Warm white walls and large-scale modern light fixtures soften the happy palette. Fresh pine and fir boughs across the mantel and a seasonal bouquet on the coffee table declare that the holidays are here.

GARLAND, FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS, Sweetpea's; **ARMCHAIR UPHOLSTERY,** Plush n' Plump Upholstery; **SOFA, RUG, COFFEE TABLE, FLOOR LAMP, CANDLESTICK LAMPS,** Elte; **PENDANT LIGHT,** Union Lighting and Furnishings; **DRAPERY SEWING,** Blinds, Drapes & Bedding; **DRAPERY FABRIC,** Bilbrough & Co.; **BLIND FABRIC,** Designer Fabrics; **TOSS CUSHION SEWING,** Patricia Walker.

A bold colour palette and a warm, friendly vibe take a classic Toronto rowhouse decorated for the holidays from fussy to feel-good.

Cut velvet damask and cheeky stripes on the living room chairs elevate the furniture to conversation pieces. Behind, on the dining room wall, raspberry-hued large-scale wallpaper lends drama and a touch of glamour and links the two spaces. Shelves and walls feature Sarah's sister's photography, treasured books and favourite gold and silver accents.

Cut velvet damask **ARMCHAIR FABRIC,** Designer Fabrics; Clarke & Clarke striped **SEAT CUSHION & WINGCHAIR FABRIC,** Threadcount Textile & Design; built-in **CABINETRY,** Tamers Millwork; Manuel Canovas Fontainebleau **WALLPAPER** in Tourmaline, Primavera.

with its twinkling lights and boughs of greenery, the Victorian rowhouse of Sarah Ferguson sparkles with the spirit of the holidays. Wreaths dance on doors, garlands dangle along the staircase and a plethora of pine branches drape the mantel in emerald tones. What can't be seen in the photos of this house, though, are the aromas of mince pies baking in the oven, the sounds of holiday carols drifting through the speakers and Sarah's rapturous praise of designers Erin Feasby and Cindy Bleeks for pulling it all together.

Before owning this charming downtown Toronto rowhouse, Sarah lived for years in a place that didn't quite feel like home. So when she bought this house, she left almost everything behind and started from scratch. Inspired by a friend, she called on Erin and Cindy of Toronto design firm Feasby & Bleeks Design to turn her new house into a chic home. "Let's just say I'm not artistically inclined," says Sarah with a smile. "All I had were bed linens."

Since she'd never worked with a designer, Sarah had no idea what to expect, but there was one non-negotiable she insisted on. "One thing I knew is that I wanted this to be a shoes-on, dog-friendly house," she says, glancing affectionately at Bertie, her standard poodle and constant companion. "This is a real home – for both of us."

Cindy and Erin began with Sarah's penchant for

ABOVE "Rather than hang the garlands on the banister, which would have hidden the pretty spindles, we draped them on the otherwise plain wall below," says designer Erin Feasby of Feasby & Bleeks Design.

GARLAND, Sweetpea's.

LEFT For tradition with a twist, Erin selected accessories in vibrant jewel tones. "You don't need to start from scratch with decorations – just add to what you have. The gorgeous ribbon we used on the mantel was an inexpensive addition that played to the living room's existing palette. It's a cheap way to change up the colour every year."

RIBBON, Masterstroke Canada.

ABOVE The metallics, raspberry reds and sparkling crystal of the dining room's place settings denote a merry Christmas.

TABLEWARE, CANDELABRAS, GOBLETS, Cynthia Findlay Antiques.

RIGHT Sarah adores the holidays, which she shares with her sister each year. The tree is visible from the entryway and from the living room. Sapphire-hued ribbon and ruby accents pull in the colours of the rest of the home's holiday decorating scheme.

bright, strong colours, and selected gorgeous metallic wallcoverings and jewel-toned fabrics for the house. "The bold tones and patterns became jumping-off points and gutsy backdrops to the rest of the design," explains Erin. Sarah loved them all, and these glam elements then emerged as a baseline for the designers' expression of Sarah's highly personal style, while warm whites, black accents and well-crafted furniture balanced the bolder details. From there, the addition of vintage and reclaimed pieces, modern rugs and mementoes were added to impart depth, character and warmth.

During the holidays, Erin and Cindy bedeck the home in natural greens, shown off in a towering tree and subtler decorated vignettes, then follow up with layers of rich-toned flourishes and glass and gold touches for sparkle. "We didn't spread decorations everywhere in Sarah's house," notes Erin. "It can look too bitsy and busy. Instead, we grouped her favourites in her living and dining rooms. They make great conversation starters!" The strategy definitely creates more bang for its buck here, with the rooms virtually glowing with a warm patina. Seeing the duo's work for the first time, Sarah remembers: "It took my breath away," she says. "My sister was in town for the holidays, and I was so excited, I called my best friend to come over with her mother to see it all and showed it to my family in the U.K. via Skype. It took their breath away, too!"

FOR SOURCES,
SEE OUR WORKBOOK

Adorned in wide satin ribbon, this tall, narrow Christmas tree looks twice its size thanks to the mirror propped behind. Pale modern upholstered chairs soften the small dining room and make it even more inviting.

DINING TABLE, Elte; **TREE, FLORAL ARRANGEMENT,** Sweetpea's.

Bold tones and patterns mix with candlelight to create a warm holiday glow.

for your entertainment

There's no better time to throw a dinner party than during the holidays. Here are three easy-to-achieve looks that will have you serving up your dinner with a side of style.

PRODUCER TARA BALLANTYNE | **TEXT** ERYN CHESNEY | **PHOTOGRAPHY** STURLA BAKKEN

PINK & WHITE

TICKLED PINK

Girlish glamour is the perfect theme for a fanciful New Year's fete. A mix of grey and white acts as a chic backdrop to accents of shimmering silver and hits of hot pink. The simple tablescape and vinyl cloth keep the look from being too fussy, so there's no need to worry about any accidental spills on your linens as guests celebrate late into the night.

1 Mixed champagne flutes and a fun feathered mask sit atop a worn vintage window, which acts as the perfect tray for serving bubbly and party favours to guests who are ready to ring in the new year!

2 Items that speak to the time of year, including a white snowglobe, pink ribbon and a mini calendar, run down the table's centre.

3 Streamlined simplicity carries through to the floral centrepieces: white vases holding just a few pink dahlias. Candles in milky white glasses give off a subtle glow in the room.

4 A mix of pattern and colour makes each place setting personal. Here, plates are topped with tiny tins of pink salt and ornaments in the party's theme colours – unique take-home gifts for gracious guests.

TIP

For simple confetti, cut your ribbon into squares and scatter the pieces over your tablecloth.

BLUE & RED

FUN & GAMES

Add an element of surprise to your holiday party with a bold colour scheme that goes beyond the expected red and green. Here, turquoise mingles with classic Christmas red in a modern interpretation of holiday decorating. Work with your existing white china and napkins so that your accent colours can be swapped in and out as you please.

① Ornaments hung on strands of ribbon act as a yuletide piece of art on the frosty blue wall.

② A crimson red ribbon placed down the centre of the table is an easy way to reinforce the jumping-off point of your theme. Topped with square blue side plates and circular bowls, patterned white dishware and bold red accents, the arresting scheme comes to colourful life.

③ Squares, circles, stripes and bows: This tablescape is all about playing with shapes and having fun with them!

TIP

In lieu of flowers, use sculptural branches and a grouping of white vases to dress your graphic table setting.

TIP

Top each place setting with a simple red ornament as a subtle call-out to Christmas.

TIP

Mix your old and new dishware for a truly relaxed feel.

(1) Wintry white berries surround a lightly used candle. Line the table with these displays for the perfect mood lighting.

(2) Handmade gift toppers suit the bucolic theme. Make them by stitching simple holiday patterns in remnants of burlap stuffed with cotton.

(3) A weathered ship-style lantern, vintage photograph and casual floral arrangement work together to create a moody atmosphere here.

(4) With layers of texture and dramatic colour, each place setting is like a gift in itself, especially when tied with a velvet ribbon – just unwrap and enjoy!

BROWN & MAUVE

IN THE MOOD

Nothing suits a winter dinner party at dusk like a rustic aesthetic. Wood tones, moody mauves and rich greys create a sense of warmth in the glow of candlelight. The mix of vintage tableware and textured linens in this relaxed setting will beckon hungry guests to the table for a comforting buffet-style feast.

TIP

A monochromatic scheme like this one is easy on the eyes. Stick to similar colours and bring in variation through texture.

See easy ways to spice up your place settings with traditional Christmas ornaments at **STYLEATHOME.COM/HOLIDAYTABLETOP.**

making spirits ..BRIGHT..

The Vancouver condo of up-and-coming designer Emma Comesotti is dressed for the holidays in glitz and glam – a reflection of her home's everyday style.

TEXT LAURA MUIR | **PHOTOGRAPHY** KIM CHRISTIE

A homemade wreath hung from a wide satin ribbon complements the dining room's sleek, glamorous look. "It was an evening-long craft project made with inexpensive white and silver ornaments, a foam form and my hot-glue gun," says homeowner and designer Emma Comesotti. "I couldn't find one in the right colours, so I decided to make my own." **DESIGN,** Philosophy Design, philosophydesign.ca; Silver Fox 2108-50 **WALL PAINT** (throughout, except bedroom), Benjamin Moore; Romo **WALLPAPER,** AnneStarr; **DINING TABLE,** Calligaris; **END CHAIRS, PARSONS CHAIRS, MIRROR,** Philosophy Design; **PENDANT LIGHT,** Jonathan Adler; **DINNER PLATES,** Pottery Barn; Vietri **SALAD PLATES,** Chintz & Company.

"I'M A WRAPPING FIEND!" ADMITS EMMA COMESOTTI. IN FACT,

her gifts are so beautifully wrapped, they often put their recipients into a bit of a predicament. "When I give people their gift, they say 'It's so perfect, I don't want to open it!'" This comes as no surprise. This designer and co-owner of Vancouver design firm Philosophy Design is able to draw from an abundance of expertise and apply an eye for all things elegant, whether she's putting up decorations, hosting a holiday dinner party or simply wrapping presents (which is done while she's watching her favourite holiday movies).

Emma's 1,040-square-foot Yaletown condo in Vancouver, which she shares with her husband, Roy, and their Siamese cat, Mia, showcases a luxurious contemporary classic aesthetic. Straight lines offset curvaceous pieces; intriguing pattern creates interest; a few organic touches add texture; and a palette featuring grey and warm white, with hits of chartreuse, silver and gold, is both glamorous and soft.

Their sophisticated condo (decorated by both Emma and Roy when they moved in almost five years ago) ended up inspiring a new holiday look for Emma. "I've always been a big fan of silver at Christmas," she says. "But when I moved into this place, I added in some gold and white and green." She mixes sleek, modern →

ABOVE Emma (shown here) fell in love with this condo's open-concept floor plan, which makes for relaxed entertaining.

LEFT Rather than placing a single floral arrangement in the middle of the table, Emma opted for a grouping of vases filled with pink peonies and green berries.

RIGHT A trifle dish serves as a simple punch bowl. A gold-etched Moroccan tea glass used as a tea-light holder adds glitz to the drinks display.

A mix of modern and vintage-look ornaments suits the condo's contemporary classic style and grey, warm white and chartreuse colour scheme. A couple of faux sheepskins act as a sophisticated tree skirt. "I've never liked the way a traditional tree skirt looks, so this is an inexpensive solution, and it adds a lot of texture and interest," says Emma.

SOFA, OTTOMAN, Philosophy Design; hand-knotted **RUG,** 2nd Century Rug Co.; **DRAPERY,** Shapeshifters Design; ikat **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC,** Dedar; Designers Guild floral **TOSS CUSHION FABRIC,** AnneStarr; **TABLE LAMP,** Kartell; **ARTWORK,** Patricia Larsen; **TRAY,** Shine by S.H.O.; clear glass **ORNAMENTS** (in bowl on tray), 18Karat; faux **SHEEPSKINS** (used as tree skirt), IKEA; pine cone **ORNAMENTS,** The Bay; green and bird **ORNAMENTS,** Liberty.

Because the kitchen is open to the living and dining areas, the island provides a convenient spot to lay out appetizers or, in this case, create a sweets spread for a dinner party (also shown opposite, centre). "It's nice to have the dessert situated where everyone can see it and look forward to it," says Emma. Along with the drinks and treats (like candy canes, truffles, caramel corn and pecans), Emma decorates the island with candles, an intriguing shell bowl of ornaments and cymbidium orchids for an inviting, finished look.

ARMCHAIR, Philosophy Design; **SIDE TABLE,** Brent Comber; **FLOOR LAMP,** Oly; **TRIFLE DISH,** Cookworks; glittered **ORNAMENTS** (in bowl opposite, centre), Chintz & Company; **CHAMPAGNE BUCKET** (opposite, centre), Liberty.

Small-space living doesn't keep Emma Comesotti from pulling out all the stops during the holidays. Here are her tips for ***ENTERTAINING IN A SMALL SPACE.***

1

FORGO THE FORMAL DINNER PARTY. "Don't worry about attempting to do a sit-down dinner and having a large group of people all crammed into a small dining room. Instead, scatter some nibbles on a kitchen island or dining table and host a casual cocktail party where people can move freely throughout the entire space."

2

DECORATE MORE THAN JUST THE TREE. "When decorating for a holiday gathering, don't just focus on the main living areas. In a small space, people inevitably catch glimpses into most rooms, so you want to give your whole house a cohesive feel by sprinkling festive elements in the entryway, the bathroom and so on."

3

GO DOUBLE DUTY. "Having a tray on an ottoman serves as a spot to display items and a place for guests to set down their plates of food and drinks. An ottoman offers extra seating, too."

4

USE ALL YOUR SURFACES. "Take advantage of extra surfaces. If you put food and drinks on the kitchen island as well as the dining table, you'll draw guests throughout the space rather than create a bottleneck in one area."

A stack of presents in the same colour scheme as the master bedroom says holiday in a subtle yet sophisticated way. A sparkly silver bird clipped to the ribbon references the mirrored nightstand and gold and white wallpaper (shown at left), while acorns hanging from the jewellery tree (shown at right) exemplify Emma's penchant for adding touches of whimsy.

CHAIR, Philosophy Design; **SIDE TABLE, JEWELLERY TREE,** Liberty; acorn **ORNAMENTS,** Walrus.

ornaments with distressed ones that offer a vintage vibe and includes a few from her childhood. "I like to mix old and new," says Emma. "It's important to reflect your personality and the spirit of the holidays – not give it all up just in favour of a certain look."

She keeps this sentiment in mind when hosting holiday gatherings – everything from large cocktail parties to intimate dinners. Instead of using the expected poinsettias or paperwhites, for instance, Emma places bright fuchsia peonies (typically a spring flower) liberally around the condo when preparing for a family dinner. "Both Roy and I love peonies," says Emma, "and I think it's pretty to have a little pop of this pinky-purple colour with the more neutral palette."

Before guests arrive, Emma ensures that unique Christmassy touches are incorporated throughout the space. A wreath of silver and white ornaments that Emma made herself adds sparkle in the dining room; a couple of faux sheepskins serve as an unexpected tree skirt; and gifts piled on a chair look charming in the master bedroom. It's a setting so perfectly polished and festive, it might create yet another Christmastime quandary: Guests may not want to leave!

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

Elements like the graphic gold and white wallpaper, tufted headboard, mirrored nightstands and faux fur throw give the master bedroom a luxurious, glamorous aesthetic that's reflective of the rest of the condo.

Nina Campbell **WALLPAPER,** Designers Guild **BOLSTER FABRIC,** AnneStarr; tufted **HEADBOARD,** Philosophy Design; mirrored **NIGHTSTAND,** Urban Barn; **TABLE LAMP,** Arteriors; faux fur **THROW,** HomeSense.

Subtly festive white winterberries make a simple statement on the fireplace mantel.

OPPOSITE Easy-to-live-with grey and white impart a Scandinavian feel in the living room.

Cornforth White 228 **WALL PAINT,** All White 2005 **TRIM PAINT,** Off-Black 57 **DOOR PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; **SOFA, SIDE TABLE, ARMCHAIR, RUG, TOSS CUSHIONS,** Stony Lake Furniture Co.; *Tree Line 2 (Dance)* **ARTWORK** by Anne Renouf, Christensen Fine Art.

TEXT
IRIS BENAROIA

PHOTOGRAPHY
DONNA GRIFFITH

SIMPLE celebration

A shop owner celebrates the season in her own soothing and subtle way.

"I try to be mindful of every piece that comes into the house: Either I love it or it serves a purpose."

LISA BESSELING, HOMEOWNER

RIGHT Both functional and stylish, the space-saving sconces spotlight photos and knick-knacks on the shelves below.

SCONCES, TRAY, Stony Lake Furniture Co.; **ARTWORK,** Marlon Hazlewood.

BELOW Presents wrapped in kraft paper and tied with string and cloth ribbon suit the home's simplistic, minimal decor.

OPPOSITE The welcoming entryway sets the scene in home-owner Lisa Besseling's Scandi-chic home. The panelling on the wall, which Lisa freshened up with white paint, is original to the house. She also refinished the stair treads and painted the risers white.

CHAIR, SIDEBOARD, WREATH, Stony Lake Furniture Co.

Unlike some overstuffed holiday homes – mind the tangle of tinsel, heed the plastic Santas! – Lisa Besseling's house is all about being mellow. In the entry-way, pinned to the staircase by a cream-coloured ribbon, a solitary birch wreath signals the season. Similarly subdued are the Christmas gifts, simply wrapped in kraft paper and raffia string.

"I try to be mindful of every piece that comes into the house: Either I love it or it serves a purpose," says the owner of Stony Lake Furniture Co., located in Lakefield, Ont., a quaint village 20 minutes outside Peterborough, where the decorator grew up. Lisa shares the 2,800-square-foot house with her boyfriend, Marlon Hazlewood, a photographer, and Owen, their Brussels Griffon, a small dog with a Marlon Brando under-bite and wispy goatee. "He's my store's mascot – people come specifically to see him. He loves the attention!" says Lisa with a laugh.

At one-and-a-half storeys, the home has a Scandinavian aesthetic. Awash in soothing grey and white paint, the interior's fall-into-me furniture inspires lounging with a cup of hot tea and a book. A river runs through the backyard, and during December, when the snow settles on the tree branches, it's like a cozy cabin retreat straight out of a travel brochure.

But the house didn't always look so inviting. When she bought the four-bedroom home a year ago, it was in rough shape. "The whole house was terrible," says Lisa. "It was covered in that thick, flocked 1940s wallpaper – tons of it, everywhere. But I didn't have to do anything structural, the fixes were all cosmetic." She brought the wood floors back to life, for instance, by sanding and →

"At Christmastime, I like the house to feel wintry and festive."

LISA BESSELING, HOMEOWNER

OPPOSITE The dining room was a priority space for Lisa when she moved in: "I finished it first because I wanted to be able to entertain guests," she says. A local craftsman custom-made the table.

Lamp Room Gray 88 **WALL PAINT,** All White 2005

TRIM PAINT, Farrow & Ball; **CHANDELIER, DINING TABLE, DINING CHAIRS, CANDLESTICKS, NAPKINS, BOWLS,** Stony Lake Furniture Co.

Plain white dishware pops against the table's gorgeous grain in the dining room.

"I can be as messy as I want while prepping food, then bring the meal to the dining room, where everything is beautiful."

LISA BESSELING, HOMEOWNER

LEFT A symphony of white and light wood hits all the right notes in the alluring sunroom.

TRAY, COFFEE TABLE, Stony Lake Furniture Co.

BELOW Lisa cozies up in the sunroom, her favourite space in the house, which offers a view of a stone church.

BOTTOM Red dahlias set against a warm white beadboard backdrop create a sweet, subtly festive display.

OPPOSITE Spare yet stylish, with its wainscotting, brass bed, plush bedding and dark grey accents, the bedroom reads like a country cottage. "Layering patterns and textures makes the space cozy," says Lisa.

Cornforth White 228 **WALL PAINT,** All White 2005 **BEADBOARD PAINT,** Farrow & Ball; **BED LINENS, THROW,** Stony Lake Furniture Co.

staining them a warm honey hue. And to honour the home's age, she left the walls intact. "The house also has an old-style butler's kitchen, where you don't have to worry about your mess, which is great when entertaining – especially during the holidays. I can be as messy as I want while prepping food, then bring the meal to the dining room, where everything is beautiful," says Lisa.

"At Christmastime, I don't like to decorate with excess, but I like the house to feel wintry and festive," she says. Lisa achieves this by injecting the rooms with tiny bouquets of winterberries and blooms, candlelight and rustic wood accents that lightly nod to the season. The benefit of minimalism, she notes, is that there's no having to sweep up fallen pine needles, or do the mad bauble-removal dash by the new year.

The couple loves to entertain, but last December their digs were a reno dust zone. This year, however, Lisa's looking forward to feting a full house of friends and family. There will be charcuterie, a cheese plate and inventive cocktails. But you'll be hard-pressed to find a traditional Christmas pine: "I'll just set up a driftwood tree by local artist David Hickey," says Lisa. "It has a great sculptural, wintry feel." And it can be displayed year-round. Because as this cozy space testifies, festive doesn't necessarily have to mean overly festooned.

"Layering stripes with other patterns and textures makes the space so cozy."

LISA BESSELING, HOMEOWNER

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

light the way

PRODUCER
JESSICA WAKS

TEXT
ANNIE DANIELS

PHOTOGRAPHY
DONNA GRIFFITH

Classic blues and rich metallics create a stunning decor scheme for the celebration of Hanukkah.

OPPOSITE Dreidels, the toy used to play a traditional betting game, come in a wide variety of colours and materials. The artistry of some pieces means they can become family heirlooms, like the silver filigree dreidels (top, centre) that *Style at Home* design editor Jessica Waks's parents bought in Israel.

Linen **FABRIC,** Designer Fabrics.

Jessica mixed standard Hanukkah hallmarks with Christmas ornaments in the same colour-way to enhance the cheery decorating scheme.

"The beautiful palette of blues, golds and aquas in my parents' home made a perfect backdrop for this Hanukkah celebration."

JESSICA WAKS, DESIGN EDITOR

As candles flicker and potato latkes sizzle, family and friends come together to celebrate the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, the "festival of lights." Commemorating the miracle that saw a day's worth of oil last for eight nights for the Maccabee tribe in Jerusalem when they were surrounded by enemy armies in the second century BCE, this light-filled holiday has now become a time for joyous parties and informal family gatherings.

The gorgeous blues and turquoise tones that appear in cool winter colour palettes are perfectly in line with a Hanukkah decorating scheme. Here, *Style at Home* design editor Jessica Waks adorns her family home to show off the many ways in which the holiday, which takes place in 2012 from December 8 to 16 (the dates change each year depending on the Jewish calendar), can be beautifully incorporated into the season.

OPPOSITE A sophisticated table setting brings the dining room to life. Jessica used her family's heirloom china as a jumping-off point, then added more touches of blue and metallic accents.

DINING CHAIRS, Studio B; **SCONCES, CHANDELIER,** Residential Lighting Studio; **RUNNER FABRIC,** Designer Fabrics; wool **RUG,** W Studio.

RIGHT The lighting of the menorah takes place at sundown for the eight nights of Hanukkah.

WRAPPING PAPER, satin **RIBBONS,** Waste Not Paper.

BELOW, LEFT Pretty Hanukkah-themed papers and bows wrap thoughtful presents used as take-home gifts for guests. A cheery paper chain with dreidel details brings a dose of festivity to even the smallest spots.

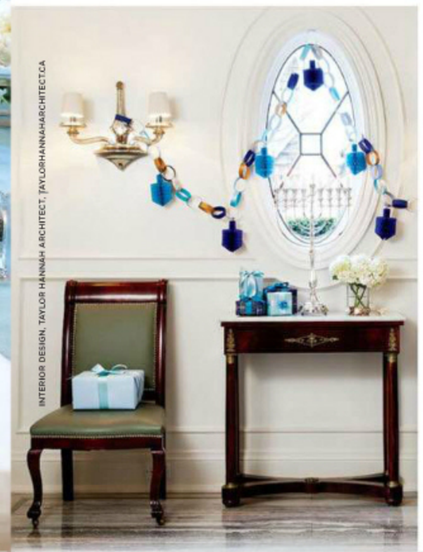
Luna **SCONCE,** Donghia; **CONSOLE TABLE,** 507 Antiques.

BELOW, CENTRE Celebration and togetherness signal this holiday. Here, Jessica and her husband, David, along with her sister Ariel (right) toast the festival of lights.

SOFAS, OTTOMANS, Taylor Hannah Architect; **RUG,** Elte.

BELOW, RIGHT Jessica transformed Christmas crackers with blue paper and a Star of David shape for more holiday spirit.

STEMWARE, William Ashley China; **RIBBON** (on napkin), Mokuba; **CHRISTMAS CRACKERS,** Loblaws, Real Canadian Superstore.



INTERIOR DESIGN: TAYLOR HANNAH ARCHITECT; TAYLORHANNAHARCHITECT.CA

For delectable Hanukkah desserts, visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/HANUKKAHTREATS.**

LEFT Baking for the holidays is half the fun of the season, however you celebrate. Jessica (left) and her mom make sugar cookies and decorate them every year, taking advantage of the time spent together.

KITCHEN FABRICATION, Falcon Kitchens; **PENDANT LIGHT,** Studio B; **NAPKINS, PLACEMATS,** Serena & Lily.

BELOW, LEFT Cookie cutters come in all sorts of Hanukkah shapes, including the iconic dreidel and the Star of David. A particularly enticing recipe features a stained-glass style filling, while silver and gold dragées tie in to the gelt traditionally given to children during the festivities.

Hanukkah **CANAPÉ PLATES,** West Elm.

BELOW, CENTRE As with any festive occasion, a toast is in order. Jewish families say l'chaim" or "to life" as they clink glasses, celebrating the miracle that was and the joy of being with family.

CHAMPAGNE BUCKET, William Ashley China.

BELOW, RIGHT The pretty turquoise blue of these heirloom plates inspired Jessica's holiday scheme. Jessica's mother serves the traditional toppings of apple-sauce and sour cream for her homemade potato latkes, but other options, such as smoked salmon, can be fun as well.

OPPOSITE Latkes aren't Hanukkah's only festive food – jelly doughnuts, or sufganiyot, take on the role of fried delicacy, too. Usually crafted with a red jam filling, inventive chefs have taken to trying out flavours like caramel and white chocolate in recent years.

Murano glass **MENORAH,** Dana Jordan; Baker **PENDANT LIGHT,** Studio B; Brussels Linen **DRAPERY FABRIC** in Celadon, Threadcount Textile & Design; Braquenié Le Grand Corail **FABRIC EDGING,** Primavera; **DRAPERY SEWING,** Studio La Beauté.

TO BRING THIS LOOK HOME AND FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

"The rich symbolism behind every Jewish culinary tradition, from latkes to sufganiyot, makes the holiday extra delicious." JESSICA WAKS, DESIGN EDITOR

fait accompli

However you slice, grate, shave or melt it, the addition of cheese simply complements any dish. But too often cheese is relegated to just an add-on to the main event. So this year, we've decided to go a step further. Featuring an explosion of flavours from sharp and tangy to smooth and creamy, bold and aged to fresh and mild, there's few things more satisfying than a selection of cheeses like the ones on these pages that work all on their own, with a little help from our sweet and savoury accompaniments. As either an appetizer or an after-dinner delight (or even, we'll admit it, a whole meal in itself) sometimes – dare we say it? – the cheese *does* stand alone.

RECIPES & FOOD STYLING TARA BALLANTYNE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** BIRGIT FAUSKE

CAMEMBERT

VALENÇAY

NORZOLA

CHÈVRE

CRUMBLED MANCHEGO

LANGRES WITH SWEET ROASTED ALMONDS

shopping list

The perfect cheese tray commonly includes a soft and a hard cheese, an aged cheese, a blue version and a spreadable one. Play with colours, countries of origin and textures, and don't forget to add in garnishes like fruits, nuts and preserves to round it all out.

menu

langres with sweet roasted almonds

three-cheese spread with herbs & nuts

warm chèvre on crust with fresh figs & balsamic glaze

camembert with fig, apricot & peppercorn compote

valençay napoleons with clover honey, walnuts & apple

camembert with herb, garlic & chili oil

THREE-CHEESE SPREAD
WITH HERBS & NUTS

LANGRES WITH SWEET ROASTED ALMONDS

PREP & COOK TIME **1 HOUR** | MAKES ABOUT **4 CUPS**

- ½ cup granulated sugar
- ½ tbsp ground cinnamon
- ½ tbsp ground cloves
- ½ tbsp ground nutmeg
- 1 large egg white
- 1 tsp water
- 4 cups salted almonds
- 1 round Langres

Preheat the oven to 250°F. Combine the sugar, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg in a small bowl.

In a separate bowl, beat together the egg white and water until frothy. Add the almonds and stir until well coated. Add the sugar and spice mixture to the nuts and stir until well coated.

Grease a large shallow baking pan. Spread the nuts evenly onto the pan and place on the middle rack of the oven. Bake until the nuts are dry, about 50 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cool before breaking the nuts into chunks and serve atop the round of Langres cheese.

TIP The nuts can be stored in an airtight container at room temperature for up to 5 days.

THREE-CHEESE SPREAD WITH HERBS & NUTS

PREP & COOK TIME **50 MINUTES** | MAKES ABOUT **3 CUPS**

- 1 cup cream cheese
- ½ cup shredded Jarlsberg cheese
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 tbsp Worcestershire sauce
- ½ cup crumbled Saint Agur or other blue cheese
- 4 tbsp chopped parsley
- 4 tbsp chopped chives or green onions
- 2 tsp cracked black peppercorns
- 2 tbsp chopped pecans or walnuts

Crisp crackers for serving

In a large mixing bowl, combine the cream cheese, Jarlsberg, garlic and Worcestershire sauce. Beat with an electric mixer until the mixture is light and fluffy. Add the Saint Agur and beat until just combined. Add the parsley, chives and pepper and stir to combine. Place the mixture in a small dish and chill for 30 minutes, until the spread is slightly firm. Sprinkle with the nuts to garnish. Serve with crisp crackers.

TIP To add some spice to the cheese spread, add a dash of hot sauce before blending.

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY > EASY INTERMEDIATE ADVANCED

WARM CHÈVRE ON CRUST WITH FRESH FIGS & BALSAMIC GLAZE

PREP & COOK TIME **30 MINUTES** | SERVES **4**

- 1 small wheel of chèvre (approximately 8 oz)
- 1 piece thinly sliced rye bread, toasted crisp
- 1 fresh fig, quartered

Balsamic vinegar for drizzling
Thyme to garnish

- 1 baguette, sliced diagonally

Preheat the oven to 180°F. On a small baking sheet covered in tin foil, place the chèvre on top of the rye toast. Bake, uncovered, just until the chèvre becomes warm, about 12 to 15 minutes. Remove the cheese from the oven and transfer to a plate. Top the cheese with the fig quarters and drizzle with the balsamic vinegar. Garnish with the thyme and serve with the baguette.

CAMEMBERT WITH FIG, APRICOT & PEPPERCORN COMPOTE

PREP & COOK TIME **30 MINUTES** | SERVES **4**

- ¾ cup dried figs, stemmed and thickly sliced
- ½ cup dried apricots, thickly sliced
- 1½ cups apple juice
- ¼ cup granulated sugar

Zest of 1 orange

- 1 tsp crushed black peppercorns
- 1 large wheel Camembert

In a medium saucepan, combine all the ingredients except the Camembert over medium-high heat. Bring the mixture to a boil and cook, uncovered, stirring occasionally, until the fruit is plump and the mixture has thickened and reduced to a syrup, about 20 minutes. Serve over the Camembert.

WARM CHÈVRE ON CRUST WITH
FRESH FIGS & BALSAMIC GLAZE

New
Wheat Thins
Spinach and Roasted Garlic
Wheat Thins
Sweet Potato
Wheat Thins Baked with Real Vegetables will completely change the way you think about snacking. Really. They're that good.
You'll be back for more.

VALENÇAY NAPOLEONS WITH CLOVER HONEY, WALNUTS & APPLE

PREP TIME 20 MINUTES | SERVES 4

1 baguette, sliced diagonally
3 apples, sliced as thinly as possible
7 oz Valençay, thinly sliced
Clover honey for drizzling
Shelled walnuts for garnish

Stack 1 piece of the baguette with a few slices of the apple, a slice of the Valençay and a drizzle of honey, layering with another slice of the baguette, apple and more Valençay. Drizzle the stacks with warm clover honey just before serving and garnish with the walnuts.

TIP To keep the apple slices fresh, dip in a solution of ice water, sugar and lemon juice before assembling.

KRAFT PHILADELPHIA

Spread a little holiday sweetness.

Salted Caramel Chocolate Cheesecake

Makes: 16 servings, 1 piece each

3 pkg. (250 g each) **Philadelphia** Brick Cream Cheese, softened
1-1/4 cups *Oreo* crumbs
1/4 cup butter, melted
3/4 cup sugar
3 eggs
4 squares *Baker's* Semi Sweet Chocolate, melted
3/4 cup caramel sauce
1/2 tsp coarse sea salt

PREHEAT oven to 350°F. Mix crumbs and butter. Press firmly onto bottom of a 9-inch springform pan.

BEAT Philadelphia Cream Cheese and sugar in a large bowl until blended. Add eggs, 1 at a time, mixing on low speed just until blended. Stir in chocolate; pour over crust.

BAKE 40 min. or until centre is almost set. Run knife around rim of pan to loosen cake; cool completely before removing rim. Refrigerate 4 hours. Spread caramel sauce over top just before serving and sprinkle with sea salt.

cookingwithphilly.ca

KRAFT PHILADELPHIA ORIGINAL

CAMEMBERT WITH HERB, GARLIC & CHILI OIL

PREP TIME **20 MINUTES** | SERVES **4**

2 cloves garlic, chopped
2 small red chilies, thinly sliced
4 whole thyme sprigs
4 whole oregano sprigs
1 cup extra-virgin olive oil
1 wheel Camembert
Crisp crackers for serving

Place the garlic, chilies, thyme and oregano into a sterilized jar. Slowly pour in the olive oil to fill. Seal the jar tightly and store for 1 week in a cool dark place to allow the flavours to infuse. (The oil tastes best when it has had at least 1 week for the flavours to develop.) Serve the oil drizzled over the Camembert with crackers on the side.

See our guide to serving a cheese course at **STYLEATHOME.COM/CHEESE**.

FRESH FIG
SLICED NORZOLA (NORWEGIAN BLUE CHEESE)
CAMEMBERT WITH HERB, GARLIC & CHILI OIL
CUCUMBER WITH SEA SALT, ROSEMARY OLIVE OIL & THYME

GOURMET McCormick

And it all started with warm McCormick® Gourmet Roasted Saigon Cinnamon.

McCormick Gourmet Molten Spiced Chocolate Cabernet Cakes

All you need

4 oz (115 g) semi-sweet baking chocolate
½ cup (125 mL) butter
1 tbsp (15 mL) Cabernet Sauvignon or other red wine
1 tsp (5 mL) Club House® Pure Vanilla Extract
1 cup (250 mL) icing sugar
2 eggs
1 egg yolk
6 tbsp (90 mL) all purpose flour
¼ tsp (1 mL) McCormick Gourmet Ground Ginger
¼ tsp (1 mL) McCormick Gourmet Roasted Saigon Cinnamon or McCormick Gourmet Ground Cinnamon
⁄ tsp (0.5 mL) McCormick Gourmet Ground Cloves (optional)

All you do

Preheat oven to 425°F (220°C). In a large microwavable bowl, microwave chocolate and butter on HIGH 1 minute or until butter is melted
Whisk until chocolate is completely melted. Stir in wine, vanilla and sugar until well blended. Stir in eggs and yolk.
Stir in flour and spices.
Pour batter evenly into 4 (6 oz / 175 mL) ramekins or ovenproof cups. Place on baking sheet.
Bake for 13 to 15 minutes or until sides are firm but centres are soft.
Let stand 1 minute. Carefully loosen edges with knife. Invert onto serving plates. Sprinkle with additional icing sugar.
Serve immediately. Makes 4 servings.

For more great-tasting recipes, visit mccormickgourmet.com or call 1-800-265-2600

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Advertisement

Wonderfully *entertaining*

Every day is worth celebrating—especially during the holidays, when festive gatherings bring family and friends together.

When toasting with loved ones during the holiday season, there's nothing more wonderful than popping open a bottle of Freixenet Cordon Negro Brut. This cava is refreshing and smooth when enjoyed on its own but is also delicious when mixed to make a festive cocktail. It's a bubbly that will give a magical kick to any holiday occasion.

A Wonderfully Thoughtful *gift*

Known as the **"Black Bottle Bubbly",** Freixenet Cordon Negro Brut is perfect for pairing with a table of appetizers and goes great with any type of food—whether you're serving dinner or dessert. With hints of apple, pear and citrus, it's classic, crisp and refreshing. Sip on it and celebrate this holiday season in style!

FREIXENET *party*

- **0.5 oz.** vodka
- **0.5 oz.** Blue Curaçao liqueur
- **0.5 oz.** blackberry liqueur
- **3.5 oz.** Freixenet Cordon Negro Brut

Mix the vodka, Blue Curaçao and blackberry liqueur in a mixing glass with ice. Pour the mixture into a flute glass and fill with chilled Freixenet Cordon Negro Brut cava.

ARCTIC *kiss*

- **2 oz.** vodka
- **3 oz.** Freixenet Cordon Negro Brut

Chill the vodka over ice if it has not been stored in the freezer. Pour into a chilled flute glass and fill with Freixenet Cordon Negro Brut cava.

Freixenet

WonderfullyUnexpected

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take a sip

A successful wine party requires a few key ingredients, and with some expert advice, even the novice host can play sommelier.

GROONER GRÜNER VELTLINER, $13, AUSTRIA

CHOOSE A THEME

A wine-tasting party will run smoothly if it's organized around a theme. It will form the glue of the party and help focus your wine selections. Possible themes include a specific region, country or grape variety. Involve your guests by asking them to bring a bottle that suits the theme.

TASTE & COMPARE

Instead of opening one bottle at a time, try opening four to six bottles at once so your guests can sample and compare. Pour a small amount into each glass, encouraging tasting over drinking. As the host, you'll want to talk about the party's theme and ask others to share why they brought the wine they did.

SERVE IN A SINGLE GLASS

Tasting wine is all about the experience and the flavours, and high-quality wineglasses really help bring out a wine's flavours and aromas. Choose a versatile glass that can be used for both red and white, which makes hosting (and cleaning up) easy. Remember to use stickers, tags or wine charms to help your guests remember their glass.

PAIR LIKE WITH LIKE

When pairing food and wine, always match the weight of the wine with the weight of the food. If you're serving shiraz, Zinfandel or Malbec, choose food pairings that work with their juicy, full body, such as beef sliders or chocolate. If you've picked a Pinot Noir, Gamay or Merlot, opt for medium-bodied fare, such as duck or pork. For a Riesling, Chardonnay or Sauvignon Blanc, serve seafood, cheese or chicken. To achieve the perfect pairing, look to match local wines and local flavours.

ENTERTAIN RESPONSIBLY

Know who the drivers are and have a selection of non-alcoholic drinks (especially water) available. Don't over-serve and, above all, remember to have fun!

Wine expert **Angela Aiello** is the founder of the iYellow Wine Club (iyellowwineclub.com), which hosts regular events, classes and tours where members can build wine confidence and appreciation through discovery.

For our guide to wine for the holidays, visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/WINE.**

PHOTOGRAPHY: RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA

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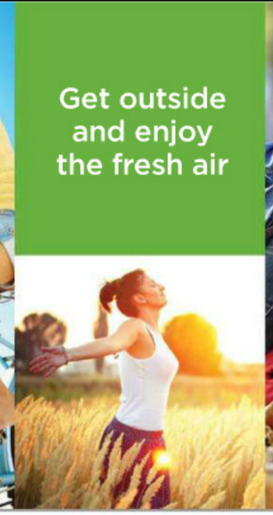

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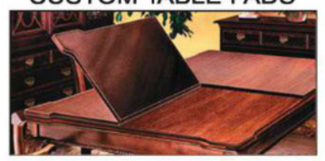

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get the look

light the way **FROM PAGE 154**

Marbella Owl **NAPKIN,** $38 US per set of 4, Serena & Lily, serenaandlily.com.

Moser Buckingham **STEMWARE,** from $135 each, William Ashley China, williamashley.com.

For more Hanukkah-decorated homes, visit **STYLEATHOME.COM/HANUKKAH-DECOR.**

Marbella **PLACEMAT,** $48 US per set of 4, Serena & Lily, serenaandlily.com.

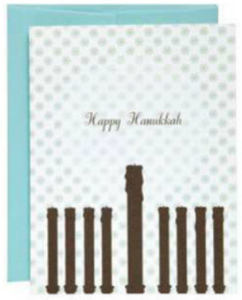
Menorah **WRAPPING PAPER,** $8 US per roll, Paper Source, paper-source.com.

Murano glass **MENORAH** in Turquoise, $265, Dana Jordan, danajordan.com.

CAKE STAND in Bonnie Blue, $57 US, Fishs Eddy, fishseddy.com.

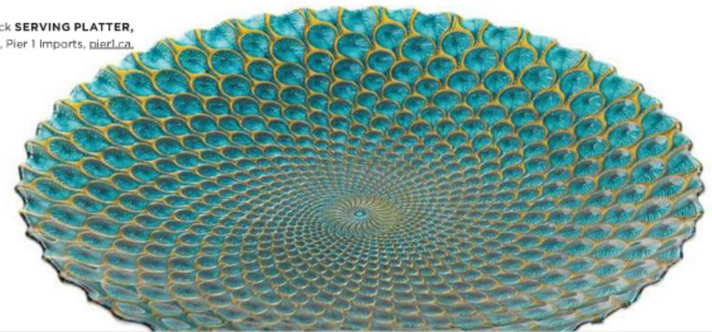
Acrylic **DREIDEL,** $28 US, Jonathan Adler, jonathanadler.com.

Painted wood **DREIDELS,** $5 each, Crate and Barrel, crateandbarrel.ca.



Happy Hanukkah **GREETING CARD,** $4, Kate & Birdie Paper Co., kateandbirdie.com.

Peacock **SERVING PLATTER,** $50, Pier 1 Imports, pier1.ca.



PRODUCER, JESSICA WAKS; PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (CARD, MENORAH)

project of the month

style news **FROM PAGE 37**

1 Search the Internet for graphics or patterns, print and scale to the desired size. Or, simply create your own design.

2 Depending on your comfort level and the complexity of your graphic or pattern, you can draw freehand directly onto the dish. Otherwise, trace the shapes onto its surface using transfer paper and a ballpoint pen. Place the transfer paper down first, then add the paper containing the design and tape the edges to the dish. With the ballpoint pen, press firmly over the design to ensure contact. Once finished, remove the papers.

3 Go over the markings with a water-based marker made specially for china (both food- and dishwasher-safe) using a simple dot technique. Practice making dots on scrap paper, pressing lightly for tiny dots and firmly for larger, thicker dots.

4 Let air dry for 72 hours, then take a damp cloth and remove any marks left over from the transfer paper.

MATERIALS

- Graphic or pattern template
- Ceramic or porcelain dishware
- Transfer paper
- Ballpoint pen
- Masking tape
- China marker
- Damp cloth

Style at Home managing editor and resident crafter Catherine Therrien shows you how to customize basic white dishes.

Pébéo Fine Point Porcelaine 150 **MARKER** in Anthracite Black, Curry's Art Store, currys.com.

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perfect pairings

fait accompli FROM PAGE 160

Wine expert Angela Aiello selects four matches for our cheese-based menu.

Treana Red, California, $40
six hats
Six Hats Chenin Blanc, South Africa, $11
Flat Rock Cellars Twisted White, Ontario, $17
FLAT ROCK CELLARS
Errazuriz Max Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon, Chile, $19
MAX RESERVA
CABERNET SAUVIGNON

Style at Home blogger Christine Dovey of Bijou and Boheme (bijouandboheme.blogspot.ca).

what's trending on the web

style news FROM PAGE 38

Here are more artists/bloggers to check out for inexpensive original artwork. I've also recently launched a little shop of my own – if you love all things blushy and feminine, even when it comes to art, then Wink of Pink (winkofpink.etsy.com) might be just right up your alley!

- **Leigh Viner of Create by Leigh Viner** (leighviner.etsy.com)
- **Jessica Rowe of The Aestate** (theaestate.etsy.com)
- **Sarah Swanson of Flourish Design + Style** (gallerywall.etsy.com)
- **Genevieve Lutsch of The Passionate Peony** (liliandbelle.etsy.com)
- **Nancy Marcus of Marcus Design** (marcusdesigninc.etsy.com)
- **Anna White of Lona de Anna** (lonadeanna.etsy.com)
- **Jen Ramos of MadeByGirl** (cocoaandhearts.com)
- **Nicole Cohen of Sketch42** (nicolecohenart.com)

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SHOP JAYSON HOME

A treasure trove of vintage-inspired furniture and accessories with a curated flea-market section, including one-of-a-kind antique pieces like 18th-century cabinets, Swiss Army blankets and other curiosities.

1885 N. Clybourn Ave., jaysonhome.com

EAT GARRETT POPCORN SHOPS

Garrett's has been a Windy City institution since 1949. Try the Chicago Mix: a blend of sharp cheddar and sweet caramel kernels that's highly addictive.

625 N. Michigan Ave., garrettpopcorn.com

SHOP QUATRINE

Be inspired by the wares of Quatrine, a shop that features lovely transitional accessories and furniture with a sophisticated European aesthetic.

670 N. Wabash Ave., quatrine.com

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613 N. State St., poshchicago.com

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Famed for its six rich hot chocolate blends, such as malted milk or butterscotch, Mindy's, in the up-and-coming Bucktown area, is a delightful stop for warming up.

1747 N. Damen Ave., hotchocolatechicago.com

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Luxury knows no bounds at Chicago's Waldorf Astoria. Located just off Magnificent Mile on the city's Gold Coast, this hotel is within walking distance of some of the best shops and restaurants.

11 E. Walton St., waldorfastoria.com

ILLUSTRATION, EMILIE DESROCHERS; PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA (POPCORN)

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last LOOK

Every issue, we pick our favourite piece from one of the featured interiors. This month, we chose a simple yet glamorous champagne bucket from a Hanukkah-decorated family home (see "Light the Way," page 154).

the inspiration

Our design editor, Jessica Waks, shows us how she celebrates Hanukkah with family at her parents' home in Toronto. Along with accents in symbolic blue and gold, touches of sparkly silver like this champagne bucket shine in the mix.

Alessi 5052 **CHAMPAGNE BUCKET,** $336, Bergo Designs, bergo.ca.

WHY WE LOVE IT

We love this champagne bucket for its clean, classic shape but also for its subtle, modern edge. The substantial handles make it easy to move to wherever the party goes.

WHY IT WORKS

Taking its cue from the swinging '60s, Alessi designed this stainless steel bucket with a polished mirror exterior and a matte interior. Made to hold two bottles of bubbly, its generous depth means bottles can be immersed entirely, chilling them properly right up to the neck.

WHERE TO USE IT

Displayed on a table, counter or buffet, this shiny, eye-catching champagne bucket is a standout piece to have on hand, whatever your reason to celebrate.

PRODUCER, CATHERINE THERRIEN; PHOTOGRAPHY, RYAN BROOK/TC MEDIA. DONNA GRIFFITH (INTERIOR)

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